

FRS GOES DX

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KISS keeps fleet on Prague streets.

In this Christmas Edition:

- ▶ **The Communicator Story**
- ▶ **FRS-Holland Latest News**
- ▶ **KISS 98FM**
- ▶ **Comprehensive SW Report**



COLOPHON

FRS GOES DX is a bimonthly magazine which informs about radio in general and **free radio** in particular. It's a publication of FRS-Holland.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

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ADVERTISING

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MAILING ADDRESS

All correspondence should be sent to P.O. Box 2727, 6649 ZG HERTEN in the Netherlands. **Do not use the address which is on the cover!**

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EDITORIAL

Another year has passed and that means the sixth and final 1994 edition of FRS Goes DX is in front of you. In one way 1994 was an important year as far as this magazine is concerned: the magazine was totally restyled and got that professional touch we very much wanted to carry through. Judging by the comments we have received in the past months, we can with an easy mind say that the changes have been welcomed with much enthusiasm. All reactions/response was very positive. Thank you. In 1995 we shall strive for at least equalling the quality (content/layout) of 1994.

This editorial is always the last column being put together. That enables me to mention last minute news in case it's necessary. In the 'FRS Newscorner' it was said that this issue would hopefully reach you **before** X-Mas. Those words are already *out of date*. This issue was planned to be out on December 30th but we succeeded to finish it off (almost) Monday December 19th. The only thing we were waiting for was a computer disk with the SW loggings and Made in Holland. The disk was sent on Sunday evening December 18th and arrived on Thursday December 22nd! It took 4 days, in normal cases it'll take one or two days. We felt these two columns simply had to be included, so it was Thursday evening when the mag could be finished. And it needs no explanation that was too late. Most likely this edition will be reaching you between Christmas and December 31st. It's extra sad because quite some Christmas related SW news is included. Apologies...the busy Holiday Season period seems always to be a perfect excuse for the Dutch PTT to deliver the mail much slower than usually is the case.

Let's hope that 1995 will bring some positive developments in the radio world.

And now may I suggest you take this magazine, find a nice cosy place near your giant Christmas tree (with hidden long wire antenna), take a glass of wine or beer and enjoy the rest of the magazine. May 1995 bring all you are hoping for?? Thanks for your membership, we are looking forward to keep you informed about the latest news in that big, wide, wonderful world of radio.

73's, Peter V.

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FRS NEWSCORNER

1995 SUBSCRIPTION

As almost all memberships expire- apart from a couple of people who already paid for 1995- it's time to renew your membership for the upcoming 12 months. Due to the fact the postage costs were raised last Summer, we are forced to implement a small increase in price: the new price will be DM 35.00/ £ 13.50/ f 35,- .

Last year we were rather *disappointed* because many people waited too long with their renewal. Make sure you renewal must have reached us at least one week **before** the first 1995 edition is going to be published. Although many readers intended to renew, they simply forgot to do so and that implied we had to send reminders. Time-consuming, extra expenses and needless to say it is unnecessary. So please make sure you drop us a line straight-away. It's not much effort to do that or is it?? If there's any reason for not renewing, and the reason has something to do with the content/quality of this magazine, we would highly appreciate you drop us a line mentioning the motive. That is important to us, perhaps we draw some conclusions.

German subscribers are allowed to send eurocheques written out in German Marks. Other subscribers' eurocheques **MUST** be written out in Dutch guilders. We don't accept other cheques. **ONLY** eurocheques!! Payments in cash are also accepted. Do it safely. A third possibility is sending us an Int. Money Order from your nearest by local post office. We'd like to thank you in advance for your cooperation!!

ISSUE 132

The final 1994 edition of FRS Newscorner. In front of you issue 132, the X-Mas edition which will hopefully reach you before X-Mas. The postal services are overloaded with Christmas/New Year's cards, letters, presents etc. which could mean that the magazines do not arrive as quick as usual. That's something we cannot control.

As far as the contents is concerned: Joop ter Zee's 'Alternative Thoughts' are included. That doesn't apply to Andrew Yoder who most likely didn't find the time to compile his 'US Free Radio News'. Hopefully he will be back in 1995. Did you enjoy the '14 Years of FRS-Holland'

feature in issue 131? Part 2 should be included in this issue but instead will be part of issue 133. Sorry!

A couple of months ago you were informed about a new Scottish contributor. Well, he will be around in the first edition of FRSGDX in 1995 and I can assure you he'll be writing a number of interesting features! Another welcome new contributor is SW personality *Andy Walker* who is presenting the 'Free Radio Show' on WNKR. Well, in fact he's not new: in the past months there were already regular contributions included but as from 1995 onwards Andy will become a regular contributor. Don't expect a personal AW column (although sporadic features is a possibility we cannot rule out!). Andy's contribution can be read within a number of columns: SW news, offshore, satellite etc. Welcome Andy, we are happy you're part of the team now!!

FRS-HOLLAND NEWS

1994

Looking back to the past 12 months, one can say that 1994 was not one of our best years looking at the broadcasting part. The year began very promising: we planned a series of four monthly 3rd Sunday trms, something which hadn't been done since many years. We intended to start the year with a 'bang' following the colourless end of 1993 when no annual X-Mas broadcast could be aired for very sad reasons.

Looking back to that early 1994 period- January/April- the conclusion must be that the broadcasts didn't bring what we had hoped for. No doubt this can be traced back to 1) rather disappointing propagation conditions and 2) the poor modulation quality of our signals during the broadcasts in the aforementioned period. The first couple of months of a year are condition-wise usually very reliable, good months. That was not the case in 1994 when the SW bands were ruled by extremely weird, disappointing and discouraging conditions. Despite these general bad conditions FRSH managed to put out reasonable signals in the UK and the continent because we had the luck that our trms didn't take place on the worst Sundays in the early part of 1994. A good signal-strength is not enough. It's also essential to have good audio (clear and loud). And that was the problem: the signal's audio was as Germans call it

"verzerrt" or to put in plain English: *distorted*. And that seriously affects the audibility. Even the people putting us out were mystified, they couldn't solve the problem.

We planned a few nighttime trms on 48 metres in the Summer but not one single trms came off due to various reasons. August saw the first preparations for the 14th birthday broadcast which was indeed a success. More about that later on in this column. Finally we may not forget to mention the sixth scheduled 3rd Sunday trm which was aired December 18th. Although conditions were certainly not brilliant, a strong and very well-modulated signal went out on 6284 kHz. For more info about that broadcast see below. Fact is that on December 18th 1994 was closed in a satisfying way!!

THE OCTOBER 16th BIRTHDAY BROADCAST

Most information about this highly successful trm could already be read in the previous edition of this magazine (page 3-4). In the mean time all letters have been read and answered and all replies went out some 4 weeks after the broadcast. Generally speaking we may conclude that 48 metres did very well in the UK and also large parts of the continent. It was indeed a solid 6283.5 kHz signal. Listeners living in the former GDR- what nowadays is the Eastern part of Germany- had their difficulties in picking up the 48 mb signal. It came through the noise and static but it wasn't simply good enough to enjoy and listen to for a longer period. Perhaps it would have been stronger when we had been in a more favourable part of the 11 year sunspot cyclus... For those people and ofcourse listeners in remote countries like Sweden, Italy, Austria etc. 41 mb brought help. What an excellent signal on 7419 kHz. And that's not what we think or say, it was to be read in various letters/reception report we got. No less than 67 reports poured into our Post Office Box from a total of 9 countries: Spain, Italy, France, Belgium, Holland, Sweden, Lithuania, UK and Austria. One listener in Spain received the 48 mb signal in the night of Saturday October 15th to Sunday October 16th while a Swedish listener picked us up with a strong signal on Saturday evening at 18.30 UTC.

The only note of discord was the fact we had to close down our 41 mb service alre-



ady at 11.00 UTC due to security reasons. To give you an idea about the reception quality we have compiled a little survey which is convincing:

Location	Freq.	SINPO
Nidda/Ober-Lais- Germany	6283	45333
Nidda/Ober-Lais- Germany	7419	55544
Fraga- Spain (02.00 UTC)	6283	25432
Paris- France	7419	55455
Paris- France	6283	54444
Ytterby- Sweden (15.42)	6283	33433
Zeitz- Germany	7419	43433
Treviso- Italy	7419	44444
Dokkum- The Netherlands	6283	54444
Friedberg- Germany	6283	34333
Friedberg- Germany	7419	44444
Berlin- Germany	7419	45444
Hofer- Germany	6283	43433
Hofer- Germany	7419	55444
Ochsensaal- Germany	6283	43333
Southampton- England	6283	44433
Padiham (Lancs)- England	6283	45444
Sheffield- England	6283	44444
Klaipeda- Lithuania	7419	25532
Neugattersleben- Germany	7419	44444
Dortmund- Germany	6283	44444
Detmold- Germany	6283	45444

By the way: we received a number of positive remarks about the special *birthday QSL-card* which was issued to those sending us a correct reception report. Thanks to all who were so kind to drop us a line!!

THE FRS 1994 BIRTHDAY COMPETITION

Each year we are convinced the competition is a piece of cake for many listeners who tune in to the birthday broadcast. And every year we find out (afterwards) that the majority of listeners have severe difficulties in solving the riddle. 1994 was no exception. A number of listeners sent us their solution but all except one were wrong. Joop ter Zee and also Stefan Kramer gave clues in their shows but even that was not enough... The solution was:

MAGIC FOREST

That one proud winner is Björn Quäck from Dortmund, Germany. Congratulations Björn!!

FRS X-MAS BROADCAST

Sunday December 18th saw the 14th annual FRS X-mas transmission, a true tradition! It had to be the 15th but last year had to be cancelled. The programme schedule was intended to be as follows (times in CET):

09.52 Opening: Station ID's/theme tune
10.02 X-Mas Breakfast- Peter V.
10.50 Weihnachten with Stefan Kramer
11.40 FRS Goes DX- Peter Verbruggen
12.20 Santa Joop is coming to town- Joop ter Zee
13.10 Tony Mitchell's X-Mas Surprise Show
14.00 Close Down.

The broadcast: pxs were aired on 6284 and already at 10.00 CET it was obvious *long skip conditions* ruled the airwaves. Listeners living on distance of more than 200 km from the transmitting location couldn't hear our signal at first. Things changed as the morning hours progressed but things remained rather unstable for listeners living within a radius of 200/250 km from the transmitting site. The signal was strong but at the moment these words are committed to paper, we have no idea how the signal was in for instance the UK, Berlin, Munich etc. There was a high level of noise, at least at our reception location making us think conditions were certainly not ideal. The upcoming weeks will give the answer.

For some of you who tuned in, it may have been a bit untidy. When one of the programme cassettes ended, it took a few minutes before a new tape was started. And: Joop ter Zee's show ended abruptly. There were no problems with authorities! There was a problem with the final programme cassette. As a result the last minute of Joop ter Zee's show wasn't aired as well as the farewell tune. In that tune Peter Verbruggen would have been declaring why there was no Tony Mitchell programme: although Tony's tape was already sent some *10 days before the broadcast*, nothing arrived.... Peter recorded that farewell tune at the very last moment when it was obvious Tony's show had to be cancelled. More about FRS' 14th Christmas Show in the upcoming FRSGDX issue.

MORE FRSH

FRS-Holland hopes to put out a test to

North America in the early hours of X-Mas Day Sunday December 25th. We'll be starting at 04.00 UTC and the test will last two or three hours. As yet we haven't decided on which frequency the broadcast will be carried. It could be around 6295/48 metres but we are also considering the idea of using 15046 kHz within the 19 mb. Quite some power will be used, so it won't be the tx which could spoil the party. Success depends on the how good/bad the propagation will be that early morning.

Sunday January 1st could see an unscheduled FRS-Holland broadcast on either 7558 or 7420 kHz in the 41 mb. Peter Verbruggen, Joop ter Zee and Stefan Kramer will be your hosts. In case the broadcast will take place (which is uncertain at the moment this column is being compiled) programmes will take off at 09.00 UTC. Close down is probably at 13.00 UTC.

FRS-HOLLAND IN 1995

Looking forward to 1995 we hope FRS-Holland will be able to put out at least 3 or 4 'normal', scheduled 3rd Sunday trms. Yes, unfortunately the words "we hope" have to be added. FRSH has excellent technical facilities but good, safe locations is a different story. The latter reason is forcing us to use relay facilities quite regularly. It must be quite clear that we prefer to go on the air with our very own equipment. We are seriously looking at a few possibilities which could make things a little bit easier and better in 1995. If we succeed with our plans, that simply means FRSH will have more regular 3rd Sunday trms apart from the birthday and X-Mas events. And that's what most listeners want: more regular 3rd Sun trms. In all honesty we are compelled to say that a number of previous attempts to bring back FRSH in a more regular way failed. We have even contacted Johan Rood, the former Radio Delmare OP hoping he could help us. But so far that attempt (plus others) didn't bring what we hoped for. Any suggestion from you, the reader is welcome. It's all about a safe location with a power (220 volts) facility.

Another idea is to organize one or two FRS parties: programmes in which a couple of FRS jocks are together recording pxs. In the May/June period a new, larger FRS studio will be ready enabling us to record shows with more people in the studio (like we used to do in the early and



mid 80's). Sadly this wasn't feasible in the past few years. It will be in 1995.

ALSO IN 1995..

We are determined to bring out a brand-new fully updated general info sheet. And: FRS Sales Productions will be re-

vamped. And what about this very magazine? We'll be serving you with 6 issues packed with the news you'd like to know all about. Same quality as it ever was or perhaps better? Fact is that this magazine also depends on the news/logs/features we

receive from a number of contributors. Why not joining the increasing number of FRSGDX contributors? It will help us making the magazine even more informative than it is already. So...we are looking forward hearing from you.

ARTIOM REPORTS...

Hello everyone, I'm back with my bit of Russian radio news. This time not so much news, perhaps an all time low, because in the past months Russian pirate activities was very low while at the same moment conditions were very poor. The majority of Russian pirate radio stations just only have dreams and plans. **RADIO WITHOUT BORDERS INT.** and **SOUTH HOBBY RADIO** have been silent since mid August. **SHR OP** Alexander left his town for short and couldn't simply produce any broadcasts. At this moment I don't possess any info regarding the return of **SHR** on the band. Igor of **RWBI** supposedly finished his activity for this year meanwhile because all of **RWBI**'s equipment has been disconnected. The only station which sometimes appeared on the usual 3935 kHz is **RUS-SKOE RADIO** (Russian Radio). As reported from Rostov-on-Don that station was caught October 9th with technical advises for those, who would like to set up a pirate radio station and building a transmitter. And the following report was sent to me recently by Russkoe Radio OP Victor: "The reason for **RR**'s silence was the aerial. It was dismantled for preventive measures before the start of the winter period. But when I decided to lift it back, strong winds made it impossible to assemble the whole mast. Only 10 metres instead of 15 metres were done. Nowadays too aerials hang up on this mast: one for 3.9

MHz and another for 7.0 MHz. In the near future I'm going to test within 6.6-6.9 MHz range with an initial power of 300W."

Another station, which is planning to hit MW or even SW, now puts out broadcasts on FM and is called **RADIO 2000 FM**. Transmitting site of this brandnew station is located somewhere in the Zaporozhye region, South Ukraine. In his release, the station OP said, that he'd been a DXer for a long time. In 1993 he started to operate within the Russian FM band (65-73 MHz) with a low powered tx. He also owns a Ham tx capable of running on 160 metres, which presumably would be used on 1620 kHz after modification.

To continue with other MW news, we must go back to 1990, when in Moscow on a frequency of 1260 kHz the most unusual musical station appeared. Founded by Stas Namin's Rock Labatory., the project was called **SNC**. **SNC** stands for Stas Namin Centre and was very popular among youngsters 'cause being a legal station, it made you believe it was a pirate! **SNC** played a wide variety of music with a preference for Russian rock. Between others there was also a punk programme with a very funny name, which couldn't be interpreted to any other language. It was beamed to the persons who have two navels, and oar-like wings (such a strange biological species). In 1992 this station was closed for financial reasons. But early this

year- to be precisely: in March- the station re-appeared on 1152 kHz with an output of 150 kW identifying itself as **RADIO RAKURS** using the familiar ID's and voices of the former **SNC**. Between July and mid November Radio Rakurs used 1359 with 40 kW. Since December 1st onwards between 04.00- 10.00 UTC (morning slot) and 16.00- 22.00 UTC (evening slot), 1467 kHz is in use with 40 kW. The station site is not far away from Moscow and the aerials are beaming the signals to the north. I must say the frequency choice is not very good since all kind of powerful stations are operating on 1359 kHz: a 500 kW tx in Moldova, a 1000 kW tx in France and Iran uses 200 kW. Radio Rakurs seems to be well-equipped with a 10-channel Kajasound mixing desk, Technics CD players, professional Kenwood & Sony tape machines, Technics record deck and professional reel-to-reel tape recorders as well. Since October 1st radio rakurs airs a new Saturday show called "Latin Diary" whose editor is....yours truly. The process has begun: official radio (with a touch of pirate flavour) is making use of the know-how of a true pirate fighter, with some kind of permission from me ofcourse! But: that doesn't mean that my voice wouldn't be audible on the pirate bands anymore. It certainly will, perhaps when conditions are a bit better. And with this exciting (for me) info, I am concluding this small column. See you in 1995!!

Hans, Chris, Marten, Joop, Andy, Norbert, Patrick, Stuart, Herbert, Neal, Mark, Andrew, Artiom, Nicholas, Thorsten, Mark and all who incidentally helped us in 1994: **THANKS !!!** We count on you in the New Year!

SOUNDS FROM OFFSHORE

Not too much offshore news in this issue. Although: a lot of developments are taking place within the Dutch media landscape. The Communicator news is from now on to be found within the 'Made in Holland' column!!

RADIO CAROLINE

ISLE OF MAN

In the past weeks rumours have been circulating about plans to start up a Caroline service from the Isle of Man. Such plans have already been existing for a long time. Already in 1968 (!) there were rumours about Caroline trms from the Isle of Man and since the 60s these rumours were regularly surfacing, for the last time just over a year ago. This time it concerns long wave trms and the man behind these plans is somebody who has no connections with the Caroline from Peter Moore and Ronan O'Rahilly. However: we doubt he will get permission from the Manx authorities. And secondly: Ronan O'Rahilly owns the name Caroline and won't allow others to use that name for a radio station in which he himself is not involved.

RSL

Just in time we heard the news that December 10th Caroline commenced trms from the MV Ross Revenge. It concerns a so-called Restricted Service Licence which will last 28 days. Caroline is using a power of 20W on medium wave covering the Malden area. The authorities allocated the 1584 kHz frequency to Caroline and according to one of our UK sources the signal is rather poor.

Peter Moore

Fri December 9th we were informed that Peter Moore got a heart attack. At present time he's recovering at his apartment in Highgate, London. We wish him all the best and hope he'll be recovering. Latest news indicates things are getting more as far as his health is concerned. For the time being he has to rest. Other stories tell that Moore took £ 3000

from the RRSF funds claiming it was belonging to him. Moore would have purchased a new 1 kW SW unit to recommence Caroline trms from Ireland.

MISCELLANEOUS

☐ Do you already have your 1995 diary? Yes? Then make a note because Saturday March 18th will see the annual *Dutch Offshore Day* organised by Freewave Media Magazine in conjunction with Stichting Media Communicatie. Last time the event was taking place in Utrecht but the organisers have decided to return to the address where the meeting was held in 1991, 1992 & 1993: Hotel Raekse, Raekse 1-3 in Haarlem. The opening is at 11.00 hours. The hall is open at 10.30 CET. In the previous years this event has proved to be very successful among offshore and free radio enthusiasts. The organisation hopes to show some new video stuff. One of the videos will cover US top stations Z100 in New York and KISS FM in Los Angeles. In addition FRW/SMC are hoping two former female crew members of the King David (which was serving as the home of Capital Radio back in 1970) will attend the meeting. Last but not least the Offshore Day is an ideal possibility to meet people you cannot meet under normal circumstances. Be there: March 18th in Haarlem, the Netherlands.

☐ Remember former Radio City and Invicta Radio deejay *Bob Le Roi*? November 28th 'his' RSL station Medway FM went on the air for a 28 day period. The station's signal is covering Rochester and surrounding areas (Kent). The station is using a very professional jingle package which was recorded at Thompson Creative, a leading jingle company. Apart from programme-director Bob Le Roi two other former offshore jocks are working on Medway FM: James Ross and Rickie Jones (both former Caroline jocks). Last Summer the station was also on the air for a 28 day period. The people behind the station are hoping to opt for a permanent ILR-licence next year.


☐ Former RNI and Caroline North presenter *Daffy Don Allen* returned temporarily on Scottish radio in November. He was joining the Country 105 on air crew in the 4 weeks this RSL station was on air. Don presented his famous 'Country Jamboree', a programme which made him famous in the 1960s on Caroline North and also in the 70s on Radio Northsea Int. Nowadays Don is involved in the Irish commercial radio scene. Canadian Don Allen was approached by Country 105 man Bob McWilliam who knew him from the days both men were working on Q96 in Paisley.

☐ *Steve Conway* and *Wendy Sheppard*, both former Caroline employees who were on the Ross when she ran aground on the Goodwin Sands, will soon marry. Quite amazing knowing Wendy has had serious mental problems following a suicide attempt. We wish both Wendy and Steve all the luck they need for the rest of their lives!

☐ *Grant Benson*...once a talented Caroline jock on the Ross Revenge in the mid 80s. He moved to Italy and nowadays he still is in the land of Berlusconi, the Maffia and the thousands of local private radio stations. Granted was chosen as the most popular deejay among the foreign ones working in Italy. Not too long ago Grant started to present brief newstems from Italy for the Independent Local Radio.

☐ Former Caroline jock *Tony Prince* dug up a few unique records in the archives of Radio Luxembourg. That happened a few years ago when the station had to leave the airwaves. One of these records was a specimen copy of the Beatles record 'Love me do'. This single not only contained Paul McCartney's autograph but his name was spelled incorrectly (McArtny). Tony sold the record on a public auction for no less than DM 27,000/f 30,000/£ 10,000 !! A higher amount of money was never paid for one single.

☐ *Ross Brown* (former Radio City and Caroline Int. presenter) has turned up again. He's currently working on talkbased station Radio Pacific in New Zealand.

 **MAKE SURE YOUR 1995 FRSGDX RENEWAL REACHES US IN JANUARY !!!!**

NEWS FROM AROUND THE WORLD



SWEDEN

RADIO SWEDEN ON INTERNET

Radio Sweden has taken a lead and put sound files of its "Media Scan" programs on the Internet. If you have a sound card for your computer and Internet access, you can access a digital sound file of the program, complete with the interviews, sound clips etc. According to Radio Sweden, the easiest way to access the programs is by using the file transfer protocol to reach ftp.funet.fi in Finland. "Media Scan" can be found in a library called pub/sounds/RadioSweden/mediascan. That same sound library also contains programs from the Voice of America, which in mid-August made available programs in 15 languages (WBN).

FULLY AUTOMATED

Since the last Summer, there's a Swedish station on air playing nothing but oldies and fulfilling entirely the musical choices of the listeners. Stockholmers were surprised when a new unexpected station appeared, testing on 100.8. It turned out to be a station based in Sodertalje, 30 km southwest of the capital. Listeners can express their musical wishes via a voice-mail premium-rate telephone line, in effect earning money for just playing the music it would have played anyway. The computer selects the record and makes sure it will be played. The whole station is computerized, not one single person is present in the station's building. The owner is determined he will make profit in the end! While the station obviously is trying to serve Stockholm, coverage is spotty.

SWITZERLAND

One of Europe's oldest broadcasters has launched a new 24-hour service in English that can be heard all over Europe. *Swiss Radio Int.* (SRI), the overseas service of that country, has gradually lengthened its broadcast day since its inception in the 1930's, and now it can be heard around-the-clock. "We won't be reducing our SW trms, except in Europe," pledges the deputy director of SRI, Nick Lombard. "Some of the programs will have to be repeated initially, probably staggered across the broadcast day." The trms on the subcarrier of movie channel Teleclub (Astra channel 9) feature an hourly update of news and an unusual style of presentati-

on, as well as a first-class international news service (WBN).

GERMANY

COMPUTER & RADIO

That's the title of a new book which was recently published by Siebel Verlag in Germany. Whether you are a SW listener or a radio amateur, this book informs about the possibilities how to use the computer within your radio hobby. A close look was taken on a lot of software-cheap shareware but also expensive commercial programmes- and the possibilities are to be found in the book. You can find out which software is satisfactory and which not. No less than 50 common programs were intensively tested. Such programs can be used for things such as decoding, logbooks, propagation etc. In addition the books gives all possible info about computer connections with receivers like Drake, Icom, Kenwood, Yaesu and other manufacturers of receiving equipment. One chapter is devoted to avoiding computer interference on your radio set. The book is written in such way that everyone understands what is all about. No complicated technical language and: much, much information. A very useful book for radio enthusiasts using a computer. The book can be obtained for DM 29.80 by writing to: Siebel Verlag, Auf dem Steinbuechel 6 in D-53340 Meckenheim in Germany (FRW).

NEW PRODUCT

The Berlin-based company On Air Syndication has come onto the radio market with a new product which in the mean time can be heard on various stations. The name of the new product is 'Pop History Day by Day'. Highlights but also less interesting stuff, memories, all related to the history of pop & rock music are being recalled on a daily basis. 'Pop History Day by Day' can be used as a fixed programme item and lasts six minutes. So far Antenne Bayern, Radio PSR, Radio FR1 and RMB are subscribed to the new service of On Air Syndication (FRW).

RTL RADIO

RTL Radio, 'Der Oldie Sender', is using a number of AM outlets. This German language station has dropped the 603 kHz outlet for Berlin and surrounding area. This frequency is now being used by Eurojazz and as a result the pxs of 'the

Gouwe Ouwe Zender' are also to be received via a terrestrial frequency in Berlin. By the way: the RTL German shows are once again produced in Luxemburg. The station moved from Stuttgart back to Luxemburg where the station has always had its seat.

AFN pxs on 1107 kHz are not be received anymore in Berlin (Veronica).

GREAT BRITAIN

CAPITAL RADIO

One of most Capital Gold's most popular jocks, David Hamilton, has left the London-based oldies station. Hamilton said he was looking for a new challenge following 6 years on Capital. However, within the London radio world it is supposed that he left because of disagreeing with the recent changes of the programme formula: deejays may only "open the microphone" four times an hour (see FRSGDX 131). Dave Andrews is replacing David Hamilton.

Another Capital on air personality, Tony Blackburn, was also in the news recently. His superiors indicated that poor Tony had to stop immediately with his jokes in his radio show... Be honest: what are people like Tony Blackburn and Tom Mulder (675 Radio 10 Gold) without their "one-liners" ?? It's a kind of hallmark for both (FRW).

The Capital Radio Group management has decided to focus on the regional market in the years to come. Capital will be competing for one of the four regional commercial radio licences which will be issued early 1995. These new stations will be stationed in Solent, East Midlands, Anglia & Yorkshire. Capital FM and Gold and a number of ILR-stations are already owned by the Capital Group (FRW).

JEFF GRAHAM

Programme controller Jef Graham (ex-Radio Luxemburg) left Red Rose Radio in November. He was replaced by *Mark Matthews*, who already worked for the Preston-based station. Jef Graham joined RRR immediately after leaving Luxemburg and in his eyes his 'mission' was accomplished with a 135% increase of the station's listenership. In the past two years Matthews was active for Trans World Radio working on several projects (FRW).



LISTENING FIGURES

Last issue we reported about British 1FM losing listeners. Here is some additional info. Since BBC's Radio 1 left its two AM frequencies (in July) and is only to be heard on FM, the station lost one million listeners. And that has caused a shift between the BBC on one hand and the commercial stations on the other. For the first time since the introduction of commercial radio in the UK, the commercial stations have more listeners than the BBC radio stations. According to the RAJAR (Radio Audience Joint Research) figures the weekly reach of 1FM has dropped to 11.2 million listeners in the period July, August and September. The commercial stations Virgin and Atlantic took advantage of the fact 1FM left the medium wave. Atlantic's weekly reach increased and is now 4.9 million (+725,000) while Virgin won 500,000 increasing its weekly reach to 3.9 million. The loss of listeners was expected: BBC 2 lost two million listeners back in 1990 when the station left AM in favour of FM. In addition: 1FM's programme format was totally revamped by the new station-controller Matthew Bannister. Radio 2 has a 14% share followed by 1FM with 12% and Radio 4 with 11%. Virgin has 4%, Atlantic 252 and Classic FM both 3%, Radio 5 Live (speech) and Radio 3 (classical music) have 2% each. All local commercial stations attract 38% of the listening audience, the local BBC stations 10%. Mind you: these figures relate to Great-Britain, *not* to Ireland as well.

NEW FREQUENCIES

The new frequencies for London Christian Radio will be 1332, 1386 & 1413 kHz. LCR obtained a licence to start trms in the course of 1995, using 5 low-powered txs (FRW).

VIRGIN 1215 NEWS

Virgin Radio is permitted to up the power of its main 1215 outlet to 300 kW. The Int. Telecommunications Union had no objection. And there's another reason for Virgin to organize a party: November 1994 was the first month since its opening, April 1993, that the station was making profit. That means that in a period of 19 months all investments have been won back. After estimating the costs, it was hoped Virgin would reach the break-even point April 1995. This early success made

Virgin boss Richard Branson decide to treat the whole crew to a 'little' trip to New York... As reported Virgin was granted a FM licence for the Greater London area. It is the intention to open this FM service April 28th 1995 (FRW/Veronica)..

GWR

A few months ago the GWR Group decided to pay more attention to a number of its radio FM services. Because of disappointing figures, some stations were even renamed. A few months after this operation, it's obvious the plan had the desired effect. *Hereward FM* in Petersborough, *KL FM* in Norfolk and *Q-103* in Cambridge have outstripped the listening figu-



res of BBC 1FM in their reception areas. In particular Q-103 was highly successful. 50% more listeners tuned in to the station-which was originally known as CN FM-in the first 12 weeks of its new existence. known as CN FM

CLT Luxembourg has joined the British radio industry. CLT bought a 17% share of Country 1035 AM, the London station which started last summer. Within a week CLT decided to buy another 8% share of Allied Radio shares. Country 1035 is part of Allied Radio. John Wellington, managing-director of Country 1035, declared he will be transferring his shares to CLT as well. That means an extra 10% shares of Country 1035 will go to CLT. CLT UK has been founded. Purpose is to expand CLT's interest within the British radio industry. Travis Baxter, Atlantic

252's managing-director (as you know CLT is co-owning the station), will be in charge of CLT UK. He will also continue his work for Atlantic.

RIDICULOUS?

Colin Clark, a 45 year old electro-engineer, was ordered to pay £ 1,000 plus the £ 500 costs of the investigation and trial. Officials of the Radio Investigation Service, responsible for tracking down illegal radio stations, were complaining about Clark regularly following the car of one of the RIS officials. Reason was Colin was involved with the technical operations of Laser FM, a station which had been broadcasting on 106 MHz for the last three years in the London area. Already a number of times Laser had been raided. The people behind the station used micro techniques to transfer the audio signal to the main transmitter thus preventing that all equipment would be confiscated during a raid. The station's location was near the headquarters of the RIS and in particular on Sundays when Laser was on the air, Clark followed the RIS official. At a certain moment the RIS was so sick of being followed that they stopped him from driving and accused him of listening to a frequency being used by an illegal radio station (1949 law) (FRW).

POLICE STORM MAGIC STATION

Raids on pirate radio stations are a daily routine in the UK. But not every raid is like this one: "The plug has been pulled on a pirate radio station in Walsall. Police and government officers stormed a flat in the town and seized thousands of pounds worth of equipment in the raid codenamed *Operation Cricket* in Sandwell Street, Caldmore, last night. Six officers and three undercover Department of Trade and Industry investigators burst into the fourth-floor flat while Magic FM was on air. The station had been broadcasting music and adverts daily, for two months, across a 15-mile radius. Music tapes, jingles, commercials and lists of advertising costs and deejay running order from the flat were seized. A DTI spokesman said people running illegal radio stations faced unlimited fines and/or two years in prison.

Chief Inspector Les Leek of Walsall police warned: "illegal broadcasting is very serious and endangers lives. It interferes



with emergency service radio waves and can effect computerised aircraft landing systems." Three people were today helping police with their inquiries." This report was carried by the Wolverhampton Express & Star on Tuesday November 29th. Tip: perhaps the DTI should hire James '007' Bond to track down pirates...

NORTHSOUND RADIO

Northsound Radio in Aberdeen will be split into two new radio stations sa from January 9th 1995 onwards. Northsound 1 will be broadcasting on FM 96.6 and 103 MHz, aiming at a young audience while Northsound 2 will be on AM 1035, specializing on information. Neil McLeod, former Voice of Peace deejay, has been appointed programme controller on Northsound 1 (FRW).

USA

DIGITAL FUTURE FOR RADIO

At the NAB Radio fair, the biggest in the world, it became clear that radio has a digital future. Not only the production side is meant but also the reception of radio signals. Digital techniques are already introduced within radio studios. Simply think of CD's, DAT-recorders, DCC, MiniDisk and not to forget the computers (jingles, promos & commercials stored on hard disks). Many US stations already use harddisks for storage of jingles etc. instead of tape. There are radio stations who record their whole CD collection on hard-disk to make sure it all sounds even better on air. The next stage will be the transmission of digital radio signals. The official name is DAB which stands for Digital Audio Broadcasting. A system which will be used to replace AM & FM txs in the upcoming decades. New, state-of-the-art receivers have to be built to enable people to receive DAB signals. Several countries have already conducted test trms. One of the advantages is that far more stations can be located within the DAB band. The air shortage will be past, far more licenses could be granted. It will take many years before DAB will be officially introduced. In the US there's a trend perceptible to choose not for an entire new DAB band but to send the digital signal by means of the existing AM/FM txs. This sytem is called 'in-band, on-channel' which means that the existing bands & txs are used. This system requires not a new DAB

receiver but an unit to decode the digital DAB signal.

Tests in Cincinnati (AM) and Chicago (FM) showed astounding results. Tests were also carried out on the NAB fair. The DAB listener had a crisp-clear, interference free signal, far superior to the normal FM & AM signals. The AM is currently tested on an experimental station at 1660 kHz in Cincinnati, Ohio. The system is authorized to broadcast up to 10 kW but so far has not gone that high, mostly because antenna modifications are needed. The significant news is that the AM signal is operating through a Harris Harris DX 10 digitally modulated transmitter that is only slightly modified.

British BBC announced that September 1995 will bring full-fledged terrestrial Digital Audio Broadcasting to British listeners. The trms should be within the 217.5-230 MHz band. Initially, service will cover on the London area, expanding to cover 60% of the British public by 1998. Urban areas and motorways will be given priority as DAB coverage spreads. The BBC plans to build its own DAB txs for the service (FRW/Radio World).

JOINT VENTURE

Warner Music Group and Sony Software have founded a joint venture under the name SW Networks The Radio Picture Co. No, it's not about short wave. This company will be -following 12 months of research- delivering 24 hours format programmes to radio stations. In addition the company offers five thematic programmes, each with a length of 2 hours per week. Pxs can be delivered on MiniDisc, CD or via satellite. Among the 24 hour formats are 'Classic FM US' & 'Success Radio'. The company will start in 1995 (FRW).

TOP 40 LOSES GROUND

Where are the days when Top 40 radio absolutely was the most popular radio format in the US? Only one answer is the correct one: "very long ago!!" The most recent figures indicate that in 1994, 83 stations dropped their Top 40 format. Since 1989 no less than 593 stations changed to another format. When looking at the Top 10 of the most favourite formats, Top 40 can be found on position 9!! Only 358 stations are putting out a Top 40 format. Another loser is AC which stands for *Adult Contemporary*. Although AC occupies position 2, 111 stations dropped this format making a total of 274 stations

dropping the format since 1989. Where losers are, are also winners. The N/T format which is a combination of business and sports news has gained much popularity since 1989. More than 700 stations, of which 187 in 1994, 'adopted' the N/T format. Rock Radio, with a growth of 721 stations in the past 5 years, is on position 4. The best listened to format is *Country*. 2642 commercial US radio stations operate this format. Since 1989 194 stations joined the 2448 ones which were already existing. By the way: the total number of commercial radio stations amounts to 10,057. That's 803 stations more compared with 1989. In addition there are 1817 non-commercial station active in the States. An increase of 351 since 1989 (FRW). Tom Gjerdrum, KFMB FM deejay in San Diego was suspended for a two week period by his superiors. Reason: Tom sent hundreds of faxes from the KFMB FM studio building to KKLQ FM, a big rival. In this way he kept the fax line occupied making it impossible for KKLQ lisetners to respond to the station...

And what's good old Wolfman doing? Since November 25th, Wolfman Jack is back on the airwaves via syndicator Liberty Broadcasting. Every Fri evening between 7 and 11 he is to be heard from the Hard Rock cafe in Washington. Wolfman also works for WXTR Washington doing the morning shift. WXTR is owned by Liberty Broadcasting (FRW).

THE WORLD'S BIGGEST CHRISTMAS TREE

Or: how a small country can be big! The 375 metre (!!) high antenna tower in Lopik, near Utrecht, is also this year used as a giant X-Mas tree. Not too long ago things looked different. In 1993 the tower was decorated for the second time as a Christmas tree. Because of bad weather and bolt of lightning a number of lamps were destroyed last year. New lamps and pre-switches were tested last Summer and it is expected they can resist the most extreme weather conditions. The unique 'tree' is to be seen till January 6th □



SW SURVEY

The SIO's are for the UK and the continent respectively. In case there's no SIO at all listed, the station was *only* logged in Scandinavia. SW addresses are to be found elsewhere in this column. In this issue we cover the period Sat October 22nd 1994- Sunday December 18th 1994. In case a date is marked with a <*> it does mean that those logs **aren't** complete!! In such case we try to publish the complete list in a next edition.

SATURDAY OCTOBER 22nd 1994

3674	23.14	Unid	---	--3
3910	23.20	Sparks	---	232
3925	22.20	Champions R.	---	--2
3937	16.15	Jolly Roger	---	333
3945	23.05	WNKR	---	222
6206	11.18	Dr.Tim	---	--3
6206	11.28	Media Magazine	---	--4
6206	12.20	Perfekt	---	444
6206	13.55	Starshine	---	443
6230	23.11	Unid	---	333
6235	15.57	Radio Caroline	---	--3
6240	12.23	Unid	---	343
6240	12.35	Picollo,Dutch	---	433
6252	11.41	Magic Spell	454	---
6253	12.39	XTC	---	232
6266	14.27	Blackbeard	---	222
6299	13.56	Blackbeard	343	232
6400	15.45	WNKR	---	--2
7125	10.45	IRRS	---	453
7125	12.01	SWR	---	453
7125	12.04	Southern M. R.	---	453
7125	13.10	R. Casablanca	---	444

SUNDAY OCTOBER 23rd 1994

3900	18.08	Moonlight	---	433
3900	18.16	Meteoor	---	333
3900	18.19	Int.Music Radio	---	222
3900	18.28	Black Eagle	---	433
3900	18.33	Jimmy	---	433
3910	10.19	Jimmy	---	232
3910	16.15	Reflections	242	332
3913	10.42	Moonlight	---	333
3925	00.00	Champions R.	---	002
3925	00.13	Swedish SW RS	---	--1
3932	17.45	Unid	---	222
3937	16.15	Jolly Roger	---	232
6206	08.55	Holland FM	---	433
6206	09.00	Starshine	--1	433
6206	10.13	Perfekt	---	433
6206	11.15	Radio Nord	---	433
6206	13.00	Radio City	---	--2
6210	10.28	BBMS	454	222

6219	10.50	Unid	---	222
6235	10.14	Britain Radio	454	333
6250	10.15	Unid	---	222
6252	13.51	Crazy Wave R.	---	433
6255	12.56	Gloria	343	---
6258	09.05	Swedish SW RS	--1	322
6258	10.13	Southern M. R.	---	--3
6258	10.40	Champions R.	---	343
6260	09.04	Crazy Wave R.	---	433
6266	10.55	Magic Spell	555	222
6266	12.08	Blackbeard	---	333
6270	12.21	Live Wire Radio	555	--3
6279	11.09	Unid	---	--1
6280	11.14	BBMS	454	---
6280	13.43	Ozone	454	222
6281	13.16	Crazy Wave	---	433
6282	09.07	Popcorn	---	433
6282	12.40	Royal	---	333
6284	07.59	Unid	---	443
6285	08.56	Unid	---	--1
6290	10.39	XTC	343	333
6292	14.03	Sierra Foxtrott	---	222
6293	13.45	Magic Spell	---	322
6293	14.00	Gloria	---	322
6295	16.15	Reflections	555	533
6298	11.36	Transatlantic	343	444
6300	10.08	Ozone	---	222
6303	10.00	FRS London	---	333
6306	07.22	La Voz del CID	---	333
6310	09.55	Unid	---	333
6400	07.20	Angel	242	232
6400	08.50	WNKR	444	333
6548	09.08	R.East Coast H.	---	544
7294	07.45	Europe	---	444
7361	09.24	Radio 101	454	332
7380	10.16	Int.Music Radio	---	333
7460	12.57	Radio Ireland	--1	---
7473	09.05	Radio Waves	---	333
7480	10.15	Benelux	---	443
12265	10.56	Wrekin' Radio	---	232

SATURDAY OCTOBER 29th 1994

3915	23.07	IMR	---	--2
6212	11.15	Radio Nord	---	443
6214	13.43	Unid	--1	---
6220	11.21	Laser Hot Hits	454	---
6255	12.51	Unid	--1	---
6300	10.41	Blackbeard	333	---
6567	11.29	Unid	333	---
7125	12.05	Radio Marabu	---	453
7125	13.00	R. Wonderful	---	453

SUNDAY OCTOBER 30th 1994

3899	21.17	VOTN	---	--2
3910	11.00	Jimmy	---	--3
3910	16.25	Reflections	343	--2

3911	10.52	Daiwa	---	--3
3913	11.09	Moonlight	---	--3
3937	21.30	Tadio North	---	--3
6208	14.45	Unid	444	--2
6210	11.11	Ozone	343	--2
6212	09.09	Sunshine	---	453
6212	11.06	Radio Nord	---	--3
6221	08.40	Free Radio Ger.	---	--2
6221	09.16	Radio Gemini	454	--2
6235	09.34	Laser Hot Hits	454	---
6235	09.38	Jolly Roger	454	--2
6255	12.36	Unid	--1	---
6257	08.20	Pirana	---	353
6257	14.07	Live Wire	---	--2
6257	14.10	Wave Radio	---	--2
6265	13.56	WMR	---	---
6266	13.10	Brigitte	---	--2
6266	13.35	Magic Spell	---	--2
6270	13.03	Live Wire	---	--3
6273	12.53	Live Wire	555	--4
6275	11.45	Torenvalk	343	444
6275	13.00	Weekend MR	444	--2
6279	12.51	Pacman	---	--4
6280	10.02	Devil AM	---	343
6280	12.54	Transatlantic R.	232	---
6281	12.54	Crazy Wave	--1	--3
6282	09.15	Royal	---	--3
6282	09.44	Devil AM	---	--3
6282	10.40	Star Club	---	--3
6282	09.33	Statio Delta L.	---	--3
6282	09.40	Wave Radio	---	--4
6285	13.12	Weekend MR	444	--2
6287	12.52	Pirana	---	--2
6290	10.58	Geronimo	454	--2
6295	10.19	R. Halloween	---	453
6295	16.25	Reflections	555	--4
6298	12.51	Transatlantic R.	---	443
6299	07.07	Blackbeard	454	--3
6299	12.15	Magic Spell	555	--2
6299	13.52	Brigitte	---	--3
6306	08.00	La Voz del CID	---	--3
6399	07.45	WNKR	444	--3
6399	09.10	Angel	454	--3
6537	08.05	Brigitte	--1	333
6567	11.13	Unid	--1	---
7294	08.00	Radio Europe	--1	--4
7294	09.55	Marabu	---	--4
7361	09.42	Radio 101	454	--2
7380	09.52	Int. Music Radio	---	--3
7380	10.00	Pacman	---	--3
7409	10.25	Int. Music Radio	---	243
7410	10.28	Phoenix	---	--3
7410	10.35	Int. Music Radio	---	--4
7420	10.24	R. Halloween	---	353
12255	16.25	Reflections	---	--3
12265	10.45	Wrekin' Radio	---	333



SATURDAY NOVEMBER 5th 1994

3905	23.51	Unid	--	--2
3922	17.02	Unid	--	443
3945	23.28	SWR Switz.	--	333
3945	23.33	Int. Music Radio	---	333
6208	14.50	Laser Hot Hits	444	---
6212	13.05	Radio Nord	--	333
6235	10.04	Laser Hot Hits	555	---
6266	10.32	Unid	454	---
6266	11.06	Blackbeard	322	---
6290	11.31	Subterr. Sounds	343	---
6299	13.05	Blackbeard	--1	333
6300	12.22	Magic Spell	--1	---
7125	12.10	Sparks	---	444
7125	13.04	Marabu	---	444
7294	09.10	Sunshine	---	444
7294	10.30	Radio Europe	--1	---

SUNDAY NOVEMBER 6th 1994

3900	17.50	Unid	--	--2
3910	11.07	Jimmy	---	232
3910	17.20	Reflections	353	444
3913	10.55	Moonlight	---	333
6208	14.46	Power Music R.	343	---
6212	09.17	Jimmy	--1	443
6212	11.00	Radio Nord	---	443
6219	12.55	Unid	---	--1
6235	09.15	Jolly Roger	---	333
6235	10.20	Laser Hot Hits	--1	232
6255	09.50	East Coast C.	232	443
6257	12.37	Sovereign	---	322
6260	09.18	Crazy Wave R.	--1	333
6280	10.35	Mirage	343	433
6280	11.26	Titanic	232	333
6280	12.15	NAPRS	---	---
6280	12.26	Radio Esoterica	454	---
6290	09.19	Subterr. Sounds	--1	333
6295	17.20	Reflections	555	444
6300	10.25	Ozone	---	322
6399	08.28	Angel	232	333
6399	10.25	WNKR	---	333
6555	11.26	Unid	---	454
6915	08.30	Dublin	---	433
7294	08.40	Onda Caliente	---	444
7294	09.20	Radio Europe	---	444
7294	09.40	Marabu	---	444
7361	08.02	Radio 101	---	322
7385	10.24	Int. Music Radio	---	343
7409	08.55	Mirage	---	322
7414	09.10	Mirage	---	333
7418	09.05	Heavy Dude R.	---	232
7473	09.10	Onda Caliente	---	222
12255	16.50	Reflections	---	332

SATURDAY NOVEMBER 12th 1994

3910	23.29	Int. Music Radio	---	333
3912	18.05	Pacman	---	333
3915	18.15	Moonlight	---	343
3937	23.31	Unid	---	222

6235	11.55	Laser Hot Hits	---	222
6266	11.10	Blackbeard	---	333
6290	11.15	Subterr. Sounds	---	333
6298	13.54	Unid (Pirana?)	---	343
7125	12.05	Marabu	---	444
7294	08.05	Sunshine	---	444

SUNDAY NOVEMBER 13th 1994

3899	09.45	Moonlight	---	333
3910	16.00	Reflections	333	444
3912	00.14	Int. Music Radio	---	333
3926	00.07	WIDBS	---	242
6206	11.00	Radio Nord	---	433
6210	10.15	Unid (Ozone?)	--1	222
6232	09.15	Speranza	---	222
6235	09.50	Jolly Roger	232	333
6235	11.33	Laser Hot Hits	454	---
6257	10.55	Brigitte	--1	343
6260	10.02	Crazy Wave	---	433
6260	10.30	Benelux	---	333
6260	10.37	Station Delta L.	---	332
6266	10.07	Transatlantic	454	444
6270	10.05	Crazy Wave	---	433
6282	09.15	Popcorn	---	443
6282	09.36	Star Club	--1	443
6287	12.03	Dr. Tim	---	322
6290	09.17	Overflow	454	232
6290	13.10	Subterr. Sounds	232	443
6295	16.00	Reflections	333	444
6298	09.46	Transatlantic	---	544
6299	13.28	Blackbeard	---	333
6300	08.31	Pamela	232	433
6307	13.05	Dutchboy	---	433
6399	07.35	Optimod	454	444
6399	07.55	Angel	454	444
6399	08.48	WNKR	343	---
6915	09.00	Dublin	---	444
6955	23.17	KTVI	---	141
7294	10.00	Radio Europe	---	444
7385	09.59	Sparks	---	333
7420	11.15	Sparks	---	333
7420	11.48	Int. Music Radio	---	243
7473	10.00	Onda Caliente	---	232
12265	09.37	Wrekin' Radio	--	343

SATURDAY NOVEMBER 19th 1994

3910	22.10	Unid	---	443
3912	23.23	Int. Music Radio	---	333
6206	09.45	Radio Nord	--1	222
6915	12.10	Dublin	---	232
7125	12.00	IRRS	---	444

SUNDAY NOVEMBER 20th 1994

3910	17.20	Reflections	---	433
3913	10.01	Moonlight	---	222
6200	10.12	BBMS	---	333
6206	09.30	Dino Radio	---	444
6206	11.45	Radio Nord	232	333
6206	12.37	Radio Noordzee.	---	333

6210	11.45	Radio Lightning	---	222
6235	09.15	Jolly Roger	555	222
6295	17.20	Reflections	---	242
6299	10.09	Blackbeard	---	433
6300	09.25	Pamela	---	222
6307	10.29	Dutchboy	---	333
6915	10.00	Dublin	---	443
7362	09.55	Radio 101	---	311
7416	11.40	Heavy Dude R.	242	232
7436	11.52	Heavy Dude R.	---	222

SATURDAY NOVEMBER 26th 1994

6206	15.30	Radio Nord	--1	--3
6210	10.14	Unid	--1	---
6235	10.13	Jolly Roger	454	---
6399	16.10	WNKR	---	--3
6915	09.00	Dublin	---	443
7125	12.30	Stardust	---	444
7125	13.05	Party Radio	---	444
7294	09.10	Radio Strike	---	444

SUNDAY NOVEMBER 27th 1994

3910	13.02	Radio Laser	---	444
3910	13.04	Santana	---	443
3910	19.00	Reflections	333	443
3912	13.07	Pacman	---	333
6200	09.50	BBMS	454	---
6200	09.57	Ozone	---	222
6206	09.15	Radio Nord	--1	232
6235	08.55	Laser Hot Hits	343	232
6235	10.15	Britain Radio	444	333
6260	09.40	Crazy Wave	---	232
6290	11.09	Radio 48	232	131
6295	18.16	Reflections	--1	---
6300	09.50	Pamela	444	443
6302	12.57	Live Wire	---	333
6400	09.00	Optimod	333	222
6400	09.26	Angel	333	---
6556	08.25	Brigitte	---	433
6559	12.25	Brigitte	---	433
6915	08.00	Dublin	343	444
7294	08.00	Radio Europe	---	444
7415	09.15	Heavy Dude R.	---	332
7415	10.06	Unid (IMR?)	---	353
7419	10.30	Heavy Dude R.	---	444

SATURDAY DECEMBER 3rd 1994

3905	22.35	Unid	---	222
3912	23.04	Int. Music Radio	---	333
3913	11.35	R. Moonlight	---	333
3914	23.20	R. Moonlight	---	--2
3920	11.46	Laser Mx Netw.	---	333
3945	23.05	Starshine	---	--2
6206	14.00	Sunshine	---	--2
6915	11.37	Dublin	232	---
7125	12.02	Francis Drake	---	443
7125	13.00	Sunshine	---	--5
7490	23.45	Wave Radio	---	--1



SUNDAY DECEMBER 4th 1994

3910	16.40	Reflections	343	444
3913	09.42	Moonlight	---	232
6200	13.20	R. Black Eagle	---	222
6206	09.30	Radio Bobby	---	232
6208	14.22	Power Music R.	---	242
6235	09.20	Jolly Roger R.	555	222
6235	11.31	Laser Hot Hits	555	---
6255	10.38	East Coast C.	--1	333
6261	10.05	Unid	---	222
6281	11.00	Radio Benelux	---	222
6287	10.00	Radio Perfekt	---	232
6290	09.15	Radio Perfekt	---	222
6295	16.40	Reflections	555	444
6300	09.55	Pamela	343	222
6300	12.44	R. Black Beard	454	---
6915	09.30	Dublin	---	322
7294	07.50	Sunshine	---	444
7294	09.10	Radio Fan Man	---	444
7294	09.11	Radio Strike	---	444
7415	10.00	Int. Music Radio	---	333
7415	10.48	Radio Utopia	---	253
7416	11.15	Unid	---	242
7468	00.30	Starshine	---	--1

SATURDAY DECEMBER 10th 1994

3910	23.20	IMR	---	333
3920	23.55	IMR	---	333
6210	11.13	R Lightning	121	---
6235	10.11	Laser Int.	444	---
6278	12.27	Subter. Sounds	444	---
6915	10.10	Radio Dublin	343	---
7294	08.50	R. Joystick	---	44
7294	09.03	Radio Marabu	---	444

SUNDAY DECEMBER 11th 1994

3900	10.44	Radio Jimmy	---	343
3910	13.45	Laser Mx Netw.	---	232
3910	16.00	Reflections	555	333
3912	10.40	Radio Pacman	---	433
3913	10.39	R. Moonlight	---	433
3913	13.52	Radio Delta Br.	---	333
3921	13.47	Unid	---	232
6200	10.28	Transatlantic R.	454	333
6200	13.17	Radio Exklusiv	---	422
6206	08.45	R. Amazonia	243	333
6206	10.05	Radio CLCG	---	343
6206	11.10	Radio Nord	---	333
6206	13.40	Sunshine	---	433
6210	10.30	Radio Lightning	121	---
6235	09.36	JRR	343	232
6235	11.10	Laser Int.	555	---
6258	13.20	SMR	---	443
6260	10.50	Unid	---	121
6266	10.10	Transatlantic R.	---	333
6266	10.55	R. Black Beard	242	222
6266	11.52	Unid	232	---
6277	10.26	Subterr. Sounds	242	333
6280	10.20	Transatlantic R.	---	433

6285	11.04	Radio Mirage	444	222
6300	10.57	Radio Pamela	232	322
6308	11.01	R. Dutch Boy	444	444
6400	10.27	WNKR	343	444
6555	11.19	Radio Brigitte	---	343
6915	10.29	Radio Dublin	343	444
7362	10.01	Radio 101	---	232
7385	11.16	IMR	---	242
7400	10.40	IMR	---	343
7409	09.12	Radio Mirage	---	333
7416	09.55	Heavy Dude R.	---	443
7420	10.37	Unid (Swe?)	---	242
7473	08.40	Onda Caliente	---	222

SUNDAY DECEMBER 18th 1994 (*)

3910	16.01	Reflections	343	---
6235	10.19	BRI	444	---
6256	11.46	Ozone Radio	121	---
6284	09.18	FRS-Holland	555	---
6295	16.00	Reflections	555	---
6300	11.05	Radio Pamela	222	---

CONDITIONS/GENERAL

October was a splendid month as far as propagation on SW is concerned. Just remember October 16th, 23rd and 30th when a high number of stations was active on the various bands. Yes, some stations do come on the air when they know conditions are favourable. And why not... "Business was falling off" in November when conditions became worse once again. In particular the 1st & 3rd week November 6th & 20th- were rather poor. November 13th was not brilliant but weird with on the continent fair/good signals from UK-based stations putting out weak signals in their own country. That's short wave! November 27th and December 4th were at the very most fair. December 11th was better with fine signals being heard on 48 & 41 metres. Activity on 76 mb has clearly dropped in October and November. The late Sunday afternoon/ early Sun evening remains a popular time to communicate with each other on 76 metres. Especially the Dutch stations prefer to go on air. They prefer qso-ing rather than musical pxs. 41 metres has become a bit more popular thanks to Int. Music Radio and Heavy Dude Radio (cheers!). Both stations were active with a number of broadcasts in the 7415-7420 range as well as on 7385 (IMR). Once in a while we get startled with a raid in Germany. Victims: Radio Popcorn/ Star Club Radio. From one or two sources we heard that there have been some arguments between

a couple of British SW stations. We cannot reveal details 'cause we are not certain about the facts... But we were told that a few private addresses (or was it just one?) were announced over the SW airwaves. The quarrel had also to do with negative comments about 'tape-pirates'. Perhaps someone can tell us what really's going on...

With the X-Mas period rapidly approaching, SW enthusiasts can expect lots of activity. Sat December 24th, X-Mas Day Sunday December 25th, Boxing Day December 26th...it is to be hoped conditions won't be spoilsport. By the way: in the last few years there has also been quite some activity during the period December 27th-January 1st. So...stay tuned and listen to that wonderful world of SW!

THE 76 MB REPORT

Most activity came from the Dutch stations on 3.9 MHz although the most active 76 mb broadcaster comes from Switzerland: Int. Music Radio. Fact is that it has been rather silent on 3.9 MHz on Sat evenings/nights in the October/November period. The Summer period is more popular among the pirates and conditions tend to be better in that part of the year. Perhaps 76 metres receives a new 'impetus' over the X-Mas Season's Holidays.

JOLLY ROGER RADIO was noted on 3937 kHz with Irish folk music October 20th, 21st and 22nd. Signal was rather poor. Address is Box 39, Waterford in Ireland. **RADIO SPARKS** was heard on 3920 October 22nd. Via IMR? So far **WNKR** hasn't commenced regular 3.9 MHz trms. The station was noted only once in the past two months: October 22nd. Frequency was the usual 3945 kHz. Signal on the continent was unfortunately not brilliant. **RADIO MOONLIGHT** is one the most regular Dutch stations. Since October 23rd Moonlight missed only one weekend. The station is often to be found on either 3900 or 3913. Address is Box 102, 7360 AC Beekbergen. **RADIO METEOR** was noted only once: October 23rd. Station OP is Jean who started illegal FM trms in 1979. In 1992 the station changed to medium wave and a number of successful tests were carried out on frequencies close to 1610 kHz (in those days the most popular spot on the dial). Early 1993 the first SW tx was built capable of serving on 41, 48 & 76 metres. Output is approx. 40W.



Address is Box 71, 7720 AB Dalfsen. And then **INT. MUSIC RADIO**. Apart from the last November weekend IMR was active every weekend on a variety of frequencies including 3945 and 3912. Signals are mostly fair. **SWR SWITZERLAND** was heard via the facilities of IMR November 5th after 23.00 UTC. Address SWR is Box 35, CH-6027 Romerswil in Switzerland. **RADIO JIMMY** is one of the few 76 mb broadcasters popping up on a Sunday morning. For instance Oct. 23rd & 30th saw the station on 3900 & 3910 at 10.19 and 11.00 respectively. Jimmy uses same address as Radio Moonlight. Good old **VOICE OF THE NETHERLANDS** has come to like qso-ing on Sun afternoons. He was heard October 30th at 21.27 with CQ-calls. A station calling itself **RADIO NORTH** was heard with jingles and popmx on 3937 October 30th. **CHAMPION RADIO** was heard on 3925 October 22nd. Address is (1). Possibly this trm came via the **SWEDISH SW RELAY SERVICE**. This station was noted on 3925 not too long after Champion Radio signed off in the early hours of Sun October 23rd. **RADIO PACMAN**, **RADIO LASER** & **RADIO SANTANA** had a 'tete-a-tete' November 27th on 3910 kHz. Santana was announcing he only used 10 simple watts. That's the magic of SW: covering wide areas with little power. Address Pacman is Box 103, 8120 AC Olst. Address Santana: Box 46, 7160 AA Neede, the Netherlands. Address Laser is unknown.

UNIDS on 76 metres:

November 5th 3905 23.51 Hardrock mx. Only heard in Sweden; November 5th 3922 17.02 Laser 558 jingles. Fair signal in Germany; November 6th 3900

17.50 Qso-ing with IMR; November 12th 3937 23.31 Non-stop mx; November 19th 3910 22.10 Rock mx. Good signal on continent; December 3rd 3905 22.35 Music. Poor signal on continent.

THE SW NEWS

RADIO EAST COAST COMMERCIAL will be on air "live" on Christmas Day Sunday December 25th on 6255 kHz. This was announced via a special info-sheet reaching us early December. Over the years RECC's X-Mas broadcast has become a true tradition. Also this year there will be live phone-ins. Direct contact with the station during this transmission will be possible by calling the following UK telephone number: 01485-532742. Listeners from outside the UK should dial the Int. access number followed by the UK country code. RECC was heard November 6th and December 4th. Both times the UK signals were rather poor (conditions) while reception on the continent was fair/good. Address is K-Flats, 9-11 Church Street, Cromer, Norfolk NR27 9ER in the UK.

RADIO BLACK FLAG tested Sept. 25th on 6271 as well as Oct. 2nd on 6271 & 6221. Only 4 watts were being used. The station is hoping to use a 100W strong tx early 1995. The station is willing to put out speech-based programming (politics, social problems etc.) and in addition music. The address is c/o Mebo Info System, (1).

A remarkable piece of news is that the UK-based **CHELMSFORD ADDRESS** is closed to all stations that previously used it; this also includes Pirate Chat. The reason behind this sudden decision is that the OP of the P.O.Box has been under intense investigation by the DTI, Essex

police and postal authorities. In issue 131 we carried the Chelmsford address under (9). Instead another English address is now to be found under (9): 34B Drift Road, Clanfield, Waterlooville, Hants PO8 0JL!

Talking of addresses: the OP of the Wuppertal maildrop was so kind to send us a letter in which some of the addresses which were mentioned in the issues 130 and/or 131 were rectified: **RADIO KAPUTT** (131-page 21) never used the Wuppertal address. **ANTENNE MAL- LAND** (131-page 22) is still using (1). The Scandinavian stations **CHAMPIONS RADIO**, **STARSHINE RADIO** & **RADIO DYNAMITE** all use the Wuppertal maildrop too. The rest of the info can be found within the 'SW News in Brief' column. It seems some stations have two addresses rather than one.

RADIO NORDLICHT will be on air in the evening/nightly hours of December 25th to 26th. Frequency could be 3925 kHz and if we may believe the Nordlicht OP quite some power will be used securing a solid signal. We are curious... Address is (1).

Good old **X-MAS RADIO** will be on the air over the X-Mas weekend with the annual and traditional X-Mas extravaganza. Expect something weird, 'cause the station has the reputation to lay onto certain persons. Most probably the station will be using 7558 kHz within the 41 mb. Trms will be aired on both X-mas Days, December 25th & 26th with a 60W tx.

RADIO BLACK BEARD from the UK remains one the most active British Sunday pirates with (almost) weely trms. Between October 23rd and November 20th Blackbeard didn't miss a weekend and

fight for free radio

DON'T TAKE FREEDOM FOR GRANTED




Norman Nelson's

RADIO EAST COAST COMMERCIAL

Free Radio on Shortwave





was mostly noted on 6266 and 6299 kHz although the latter frequency is frequently suffering interferences from legal services. Signals on the continent have been fair. The station is using a 25W tx constructed by LWR's Bill Lewis in co-operation with Black Beard's Dave Norris. Address used to be the Chelmsford one but that address is no more. Next time we'll publish the new address of Radio Black Beard.

RADIO BALTIC INT. was warned by the Swedish authorities. The station received a letter from Swedish Teracom (counterpart of Dutch PTT, German Bundespost etc.) ordering him to cease broadcasts on 6206.5. As a result the station's tx was uned to 6212 kHz as from October 29th onwards. The OP announced the relay service was going to be continued. Mid November (13th) RBI returned on 6206.5. Results on 6212 were inferior to those on 6206.5. It remains a fact that the mod quality leaves much to be desired. With a higher level (and thus a more powerful mod amplifier) the station could sound much louder. We are curious whether Teracom will be undertaking action. OPs who would like to be relayed should announce no specific frequency but instead '48 metres'. Address is (10).

Following a successful September 3rd relay via the NAPRS, German **RADIO DR. TIM** plans more US relays. Reception reports from Virginia, Michigan, Rhode Island, Lake Erie and Canada were received. The birthday broadcast produced 39 letters from various countries including Spain, Finland and Latvia. Three German listeners- Ralf Dallek, J.C. Hoffmann & Detlef Enke- won nice prizes. The Unid on July 17th trm (see FRSGDX 130, page 21) on 6217 & 6288 was Radio Dr. Tim. It was a relay via the Swedish SW Relay Service. The station's OP would like to use FRSGDX to thank Angel Int., Laser Hot Hits & Jonny Augustsson. Some recent news: October 22nd and November 6th the station was aired via RBI on 6206.5 & 6212 respectively. The station is regularly reading out DX-tips in German. Address is (1).

RADIO NORD from Sweden has been heard weekly via the tx of Radio Baltic Int. A number of trms were noted on

6206.5 and for a brief period Nord was noted on 6212 (see elsewhere). One of Nord's pxs is called 'Media Magazine' and this programme should be fairly interesting to any radio enthusiast. Address Radio Nord is Box 65, 68322 Hagfors in Sweden.

RADIO JOYSTICK will be on air December 26th/27th with a 60 minute show

concerned Radio Joystick will be heard six times (bi-monthly) via the IRSS facilities on 7125 kHz. All trms are scheduled on 3rd Saturdays between 13.00-14.00 CET: January 21st, March 18th, May 20th, July 15th, September 16th and November 18th.

Last but not least: remember you can order your very own beautiful Radio Joystick T-shirt by sending DM 20.00 to P.O.Box 100812, D-45408 Muelheim an der Ruhr in Germany.

RADIO FAN MAN is a brand-new German operation having in some way connections with Radio Joystick. The first Fan Man broadcast was aired via Radio Europe on 7294U December 4th. The 60 minute show, which was noted with a fine signal between 09.37-10.37 UTC, was recorded in the Joystick studio. Address is (1)???

RADIO STRIKE seems to be the first Silician SW pirate!! The station was heard on two occasions over the tx of Radio Europe on 7294U: November 26th and December 4th. Both times just after 09.00 UTC. Address is unknown. The station is also active on 1635 kHz with a home-made 50W tx. Another Italiana pirate, **RADIO MOSQUITO- La Voz de la Musica** is transmitting with a power of 150W from a location somewhere in Northern Italy. The stations transmits on 4115 and 4032 kHz! Pxs have been heard around 19.00 UTC consisting of music. Address is G.A.M.T., Box 3/ Succursale 10, I-31100 Treviso, Italy.



via the WNKR tx. Frequency will be 6400 kHz unless WNKR has also plans to broadcast on these dates. In that case Joystick will be relayed within the 48 mb. Sat November 26th saw Joystick on 7294U via Radio Europe in Italy. Station-OP Charlie Prince reports that the November tape, which should be aired over the IRRS on 7125, arrived too late. The trm had to be cancelled. That could explain why no free radio stations were heard on 7125 Sat November 12th/19th! It seems the Italian post is an annoyance. Sad but true... As from March 1995 (when the station will become 10 years old!) onwards Radio Joystick will have brandnew info-sheets and qsl-cards available. As far as 1995 is

Also in the past two months several stations were relayed via the **INTERNATIONAL RADIO RELAY SERVICE** in Milan, Italy. All free radio stations lease air time via **SWR-Switzerland** and they on their turn lease air time on the IRRS. Following negotiations between SWR-Switzerland and Nexus-IBA/IRRS a number of things have changed since November. The 7125 relay service remains in operation on Sat between 13.00-16.00 CET. Repeats are on Friday between 19.00-21.00 CET. There is a chance that as from January 1995 onwards also the Saturday morning time slot 10.00-11.30 CET will be used. On Sundays there's a



30 minute gap in between the United Nations pxs which could be used for free radio! One of the most important changes is the price stations have to pay: twice broadcasting a 60 minute show costs DM 90.00. SWR announced that a listener from India responded to a Fri evening repeat of a free radio station. Quite a distance...

December 24th will see special pxs on 7125 kHz. Between 09.00-17.00 UTC several stations including IMR & Radio Sparks will be aired. In addition SWR-Switzerland will make its debut show on SW that day. Saturday December 31st will see a 'Radio-Relay 1994 Review' between 09.00-15.00 UTC.

The following stations were observed between Sat October 15th- Sat December 3rd 1994:

- ▶▶ October 15th Radio Fantasy
- ▶▶ October 22nd Radio Casablanca/Southern Music Radio
- ▶▶ October 29th Radio Marabu/Radio Wonderful
- ▶▶ November 5th Radio Sparks/Radio Marabu
- ▶▶ November 12th no free radio stat.
- ▶▶ November 19th the IRRS with own programming
- ▶▶ November 26th Radio Stardust/Party Radio/WCMR/Radio Hochweisel
- ▶▶ December 3rd Radio Francis Drake

Now onto the news: **RADIO FANTASY** can be contacted via P.O.Box 1137, D-96118 Bischberg in Germany. **RADIO SPARKS** has a brandnew address: P.O.Box 510, CH-4010 Basel, Switzerland. Sparks had a joint show with I.M.R. November 13th on 7385 and in addition (not in parallel!!) on 7420 kHz. Sparks hopes to have a X-Mas broadcast together with IMR December 24th via 7125. January 7th a two hour show will take to the air. **RADIO FRANCIS DRAKE** returned after a few months' absence on SW December 3rd when the station celebrated its 4th (or was it the 3rd??) anniversary. Congratulations! Address is (1). **WCMR** stands for World Change Mission Radio and is a new station contactable via (1). Another newcomer is **PARTY RADIO**. Address is Eulenring 67, D-35428 Langgons/Giessen in Germany. **RADIO HOCHWEISEL's** November 26th broadcast was a programme which should

have been aired already late August. The real November show will be aired February 4th 1995. And the February 4th broadcast? Hasn't been recorded yet! In 1995 the station has planned 6 trms via the IRRS (and 6 repeats on Fridays). Address is Butzbacherstr. 25, D-35510 Butzbach/Hoch-Weisel in Germany.

Since early November **RADIO DUBLIN** is back on SW on a new frequency replacing 6910: 6915 kHz. We are not 100% sure but we think November 6th was the first time the new frequency was in operation. The station is still struggling with its modulation which is much too low making the audibility rather poor. A pity 'cause the signal-strength is fair/good. Don't they have an engineer who can solve the problem??? Address is Box 2077, Dublin 8 in Ireland.

RADIO SANTA CLAUS is the name of a German project which could be active over the X-Mas weekend. Many German jocks will join forces for this one-off project. Most likely the Wuppertal address (1) will be used.

BRITAIN RADIO INT. was heard twice on 6235 via JRR: October 23rd and November 27th. Both times the tx provided strong signals in the UK whereas the continental signal was fair. December 25th, 26th and January 1st BRI will be on air, possibly not via JRR but with own equipment. In addition there could be one or two unscheduled trms. Hopefully we may expect BRI back on the air with regular trm sin 1995. The SW scene simply needs stations such as BRI. Addresses: (3) & (4).

LIVE WIRE RADIO popped up a few times on 48 and has been inactive on 76 metres. October 30th LWR was qso-ing with Weekend Music Radio producing splatter and an overmodulated signal. November 27th saw LWR on 6302. Hopefully the station will produce some nice programs over the X-mas weekend. Address is (2).

INTERNATIONAL MUSIC RADIO was noted frequently on 41 metres. Between October 23rd and December 11th the station missed only one weekend. Favourite frequencies are 7380, 7385, 7415 & 7420 kHz. 7400 was also used for a brief period November 13th & December 11th. October 30th the station celebrated its 1st birthday with a special show between 10.30-11.40 UTC on 7410. The

November 13th trm was a joint one together with Radio Sparks. Signal quality in Western Europe is fair. IMR is often using a 100W strong tx. IMR shows that various mostly unused 41 mb frequencies can do very well with relatively low powered txs. The station seems to concentrate on Sun morning trms and Sat night qso-ing. IMR intends to carry out a live transmission together with Sparks and Radio Calypso December 24th. Address for this German (?) station is Box 1951, 79554 Weil am Rhein, Germany.

Another British 'B' is **BRITAIN's BETTER MUSIC STATION**. This SW veteran was fairly active in the past weeks with broadcasts being noted on October 23rd on 6210 & 6280, November 20th on 6200 and finally November 27th on 6200. Especially the latter date good reception was provided in the UK. Signals on the continent are mostly poor/fair. Address is 40 Dalehead, Camden, London NW1 2SL in the UK.

November 13th **RADIO DUTCH BOY** was testing on a rather unusual frequency, namely 6307 kHz. A second test was carried out exactly one week later when a fine signal was heard in Sweden. We are uncertain whether the station on 6206 at 10.59 UTC Dec. 11th was Radio Dutchboy?! Who can help? Fact is Dutchway was on 6307 that same day at 11.00 UTC putting out a fine signal. Address is Box 13, 7710 AA Nieuwleusen in the Netherlands.

RADIO DRILAND is a German station which started on SW October 17th 1993. The station uses a home-made 40W tx with EL84 and an EL34 valves, connected to a 24 m long wire antenna. The name Driland is referring at the Belgian-Dutch-German border. Driland trms are rare because of security reasons. Address is (1).

RADIO PAMELA made a handful of trms on 6300. The strange thing about the station is that it can disappear for many months and then unexpectedly pops up with weekly trms... Since November 13th Pamela has been all weekends on 6300. Signal-quality on the continent was fair for most of the broadcasts. During the Dec. 11th broadcast 6300 suffered RTTY interference. The address is same as Overflow Radio (see 'SW News in Brief').

RADIO GEMINI was heard twice in October. These SW veterans are already acti-



ve since 1972 when certain SW OPs of the current scene had to be born yet... Real veterans! Gemini was active on 6235 October 22nd playing old tapes. The Gemini Story was heard on 6280 October 23rd and October 30th the station was on 6221. Was the latter their 22nd birthday show? We are not 100% certain... We think that some of the trms just mentioned were relays via fellow free radio stations in the UK. Address is (8).

Belgian **RADIO BRIGITTE** remains the most active Belgian SW pirate... October 30th the station was qso-ing on 6266 (bad modulation quality) and on 6299. Earlier that same day the station was active on 6537 kHz with much better audio. November 13th 6257 was in use and two weeks later 6557. Finally we mention Dec. 11th when Brigitte was on 6555 putting out Italian music. Reception on the continent is mostly fair. Address is Box 10, 7954 ZG Rouveen in the Netherlands.

CRAZY WAVE RADIO is one of Germany's most active SW pirates. October 23rd saw the station on 6281, 6260 and 6252. Further broadcasts were noted on October 30th, November 6th, 13th and 27th. On the latter date a Radio Popcorn special was aired (because of the raid on Popcorn). Unfortunately the modulation was far from good during part of this broadcast. CWR or Welle Wahnsinn can be contacted via Box 411131, D-55068 Mainz in Germany.

Interesting were the tests carried out by **RADIO EAST COAST HOLLAND**. The station has decided to leave 48 metres in favour of the 45 mb. October 23rd a test was noted on 6548. Many listeners stated to have heard a very strong signal. A second test took place November 6th on 6555. Remember that a joint RECH/VOTN broadcast will be aired December 31st. Address RECH is Box 536, 7900 AM Hoogeveen.

German station **RADIO POPCORN** was raided November 13th during a trm on 6282. The Popcorn tx was already 90 minutes on air from a location 'somewhere on a lonely hillside' in the southern part of Munsterland. That was at a moment Radio Popcorn had already closed down. The tx however remained on the air relaying Star Club Radio. Transmitter plus various other equipment (car battery, antenna, SWR

- 1 = P.O.Box 220342 / D-42373 WUPPERTAL / Germany
- 2 = 14 Stone Row/ COLERAINE/ Co. Londonderry/ BT52 1EP/ Northern Ireland
- 3 = 32 Victoria Road/ SALISBURY/ Wiltshire SP1 3NG/ England
- 4 = P.O.Box 130/ 92504 RUEIL Cedex/ France
- 5 = 12 Dorman Rd/ PRESTON/ Lancs PR2 6AS/ England
- 6 = c/o Stefan Printz/ Kamnarsvagan 13D:220/ 22646 LUND/ Sweden
- 7 = P.O.Box 383/ 5900 AJ VENLO/ the Netherlands
- 8 = Box 293/ Merlin/ Ontario N0P 1W0/ Canada
- 9 = 34B Drift Road/ Clanfield/ Waterloo/ Hants PO8 0JL/ England
- 10 = SRS/ Östra Porten 29/ 442 54 YTTERBY/ Sweden

Remark: address (9) has been added instead of the Chelmsford address which now seems to have disappeared for good!!

metre etc.) including an expensive Grundig Satellit receiver were confiscated. According to reports the authorities were tipped off by somebody who apparently knew the location... Popcorn address is (1). Popcorn won't return on SW.

OZONE RADIO tested on 6280 October 23rd on 6280. At 13.43 a weak signal was noted on the continent. October 30th Ozone used 6210, November 6th 6300 and November 27th 6200... Going up and down the band like a yo-yo. Address is (3).

WEST & NORTH KENT RADIO can now be heard every 2nd Sunday. The first one was heard December 11th. A fine continental signal was noted on 6400. Together with the introduction of monthly trms rather than weekly, Andy Walker's controversial 'Free Radio Show' returned containing updated news, music, gossip. In addition a new show called 'The International Hour' was aired for the first time. Apart from Andy Walker, Dave Martin and Terry Philips were heard. Weekly WNKR broadcasts were noted between October 23rd and November 13th. Sat November 26th in the late afternoon an unscheduled broadcast was observed on 6400. As far as X-Mas is concerned: WNKR hopes to be on air 48 hours non-stop on Boxing Day December 26th and on Tuesday December 27th. WNKR is certainly one of the leading station in the UK. A strong signal, good modulation and programmes which are worth while to listen to. Address is (1).

From now on **ANGEL INT.** can be heard each 4th Sunday via the facilities of WNKR. Weekly trms were noted between October 23rd and November 13th. The

first 4th Sun broadcast was aired November 27th. Christmas Day December 25th Angel will be on air with a special X-Mas show on 6400. Address is 34B Drift Road, Clanfield, Waterloo, Hants PO8 0JL in the UK.

LASER HOT HITS was relayed a handful of times late October and during all November weekends as well. All relays were carried out on 6235 by Jolly Roger Radio, stationed in Ireland. In the UK excellent signals were noted. Reception on the continent is another story: most times a poor/fair was heard. Address is (8).

HEAVY DUDE RADIO returned on the SW airwaves after an absence of many months. The return on SW was noted November 6th on 7418. More tests were heard on the 19th, 20th and 27th of November, mostly within the 7415-7420 area. So far the signals weren't very impressing on the continent. That was not the case December 11th when HDR put out a strong signal on 7416. Address: (6). More broadcasts are to be expected in December.

Looking at some of the reports we received, **TRANSATLANTIC RADIO** is using a powerful tx nowadays. We believe at least some 100W are being used. On During one of the qso's, the TAR OP announced he was using 125W. October 23rd a test was heard with a strong signal and poor modulation. November 13th TAR was active on 6260, 6267 & 6298 kHz with very good signals on the continent as well as in the UK. Yet another test was monitored on 6201, 6266 & 6280 December 11th. Signal quality was fair. The station has a nice photo-qsl available for those sending in a correct report. Ad-



dress is Box 4427, 3006 AK Rotterdam in the Netherlands.

SUBTERRANEAN SOUNDS has a new address: Subt. Sounds, c/o 5 Dolphin Court, 15th Avenue, Branksome Park, Bournemouth, Dorset BH9 2UN in the UK. That's quite a mouthful... Apparently the station has left 41 metres in favour of 48. November 5th, 6th, 12th and 13th the station was heard on 6290. On the latter date there was a phone-in and the signal on the continent was quite good. December 11th the station was noted on 6276 instead of 6290.

STARSHINE RADIO from Sweden made its debut show on 48 metres October 22nd on 6206.5 via the tx of RBI. Starshine was also noted October 23rd, this was possibly a repeat(?). Starshine has been silent on 76 metres in the past two months. December 4th the station tested to North America. At 00.30 UTC Starshine was heard on 7468U. Address is (5).

RADIO WAVES INT. carried out a one-off test October 23rd. Perhaps to make sure the tx is still in working order? Address is (4). RWI is still publishing its very own 'Free Radio Infos'. If you have a computer and modem (baud rates from 1200 to 9600), you can try to contact the RWI BBS 24 hours a day. Call: (33)(1) 47149584. Infos are about free radio, country music etc. Every month a new user will be chosen winning a tape or even CD.

RADIO MARABU was heard on 7125 kHz Sat October 29th and Friday November 4th. In addition a show was aired on 7294U November 6th. Recently we received the latest Marabu update:

Sat & Sun	10.00-11.00 UTC	on 7294 (USB)
Sundays	11.00-12.00 UTC	on 6235 (via JRR)
Mondays	19.00-22.00 UTC	on 6206 (via Radio Baltic)
Monthly	12.00-14.00 UTC	on 7125 (every 2nd Sat; via IRRS)
Monthly	18.00-20.00 UTC	on 7125 (every 3rd Fri; via IRRS)

Radio Marabu sells T-Shirts: white printing with the Marabu logo on a black shirt. These shirts are available in the size XL and cost £ 10.00/\$ 20.

SW NEWS IN BRIEF

RADIO PERFECT seems to be one of the very few music pirates playing country music. The station was noted on 6287 and 6290 Sunday December 4th. Address is (7)

although the Wuppertal OP informed us (1) is still in use *** **RADIO LIGHTNING** pops up so now and then. For instance on November 20th when punk/rave music was noted on 6210 which is the station's favourite frequency. Signal quality on the continent was poor. Address is Box 10, Stuart House, Kings Street, Droylsden in the UK *** **RADIO AMAZONIA** returned on SW following a long silence December 11th. The station used the RBI facilities on 6206 kHz. Address is (10) *** Another station returning to the airwaves at the same date is German **RADIO CLCG**. Also CLCG was heard on 6206 with deejay Steve Young. Address is Box 540101, D-47151 Duisburg in Germany *** German **DINO RADIO** was heard via Radio Baltic Int. on 6206.5 November 20th. Address is (1) *** Every year when X-Mas is approaching, Scottish **RADIO GLORIA** becomes active. October 23rd Gloria was monitored on 6293 talking about US stations and qso-ing. Address is (8) *** Remember mysterious **FREE RADIO SERVICE LONDON**? This station which mostly plays tapes of various radio stations, both offshore and landbased, seems to have the following mailing address: 4 Bampton Rd, Forest Hill, London SE23 2AX in the UK. October 23rd the station was noted on 6303 kHz with extracts of the famous former London-based medium wave pirate Radio Jackie *** **RADIO DELTA BRAVO INT.** is a new German project. First signals were heard in the late afternoon of November 6th on 3935. Signal was fair/good but got weaker and weaker in the end (car battery going flat?). Address is Postfach, D-48578 Gronau in Germany *** **XTC** was noted twice in October: on the 22nd & 23rd. Address is 34B Drift Rd, Clanfield, Waterlooville, Hants PO8 0JL in the UK. According to the Wuppertal OP the station is still using (1)! *** **RADIO TITANIC INT.** will be silent until the Summer of 1995. November 6th saw a repeat of the station's 19th birthday show via the tx of Radio Mirage. Frequency was 6280. Address is (1) *** A station calling itself **RADIO PICCOLO** was heard October 22nd on 6240 calling CQ to XTC. Who has more info about this station? Address is unknown *** **WAVE RADIO INT.** tested to North America in the night of Dec. 3rd to 4th on 7490. Address is (6) *** **RADIO GOSTOPPER** (what a wonderful name!!) is a spoof station heard on the 16th of October at 10.30 UTC *** That same date **RADIO PHOENIX** was heard qso-ing. Oct. 26th a second trm was logged. The station has no address at present time *** **OVERFLOW RADIO** is not a very regular SW broadcaster. November 13th the station made one of its sporadic broadcasts, this time on 6290. Signal was poor on the continent. Address

is c/o Caretaker's House, Lawn Lane, Chelmsford, Essex CM1 5PP in the UK *** A station calling itself **RADIO BOBBY** was heard via the Baltic tx on 6206 Sun Dec. 4th. Oldies were heard on this new station *** **RADIO EXCLUSIV** is a new station which was heard on 6200 Dec. 11th. Address: P.O.Box 105421, D-40045 Düsseldorf in Germany *** The **RAINBOW RADIO GERMANY** October 9th trm on 6260 was a realy via CWR/Welle Wahnsinn. RRG can be contacted via Box 202, 36172 Bebra in Germany *** **OPTIMOD** was relayed twice via the WNKR tx: November 13th and 27th. Optimod broadcasts contain much media news, interesting to any (free) radio freak. It seems the station can be contacted via Angel Int.: 34B Drift Rd, Clanfield, Waterlooville, Hants PO8 0JL *** **RADIO UTOPIA** was heard on 7415 khz December 4th. Was it the same Utopia which was active in the late 1970s? That station came from the south-eastern part of the UK. Address is unknown *** **SUNSHINE CLASSIC ROCK** continues with relays via Radio Europe. November 5th, 12th and December 4th saw the station on 7294U, the fixed frequency of Europe. Sunshine address is (4) *** **ONDA CALIENTE** is a station based somewhere in the southern part of France. The station was already head a number of times in North-East Spain. Western European listeners can catch the station on 7294U (November 6th). 7473 (yes, the old RWI frequency) tests were carried out November 6th & 13th and December 11th. Onda Caliente used (1) but has switched to (4). *** **RADIO PHOENIX** was heard on 7410 October 30th qso-ing with IMR. Anyone who can supply us with info about Phoenix? *** **RADIO BENELUX** returned to 41 metres after a number of broadcasts within the 48 mb. October 23rd a nice signal was audible on the well-known 7480 frequency. Within the pxs listeners are given the chance to exchange/sell/buy certain SW related articles. A free list can be asked for via BNL. Address is (7). In addition we are told that the station is still using (1) *** **FREE RADIO GERMANY** was heard October 30th on 6221 with offshore tapes. Address is (7) *** Remember good old German Radio Nordsee which used to broadcast on 6252? From one source we heard the station is now called **RADIO TELSTAR**. The OP of the Wuppertal address informed us that **RADIO NORDSEE INT.** is still using (1)! Confusing? The RNI OP can give us the definitive answer regarding the station name! *** **RADIO GERONIMO** tested on 6290 October 30th. An old interview with Chris Cooper was aired. Radio 48 was noted on 6290 November 27th. No doubt Radio Geronimo = Radio 48! Sig-



nals on the continent were rather poor. We don't know what power was used. No address available! *** **RADIO TORENVALK** was heard on 6275 October 30th. The station was blocking out WMR on the continent. Torenvalk is using a powerful tx. Modulation quality is always excellent! Address is Box 94, 7038 ZH Zeddam in the Netherlands *** **WEEKEND MUSIC RADIO** has been inactive for a long period. October 30th saw some qso activity on 6275 & 6285 (RTTY interference). Hopefully the station will be live on air over the X-Mas weekend with its famous phone-in. Would be nice WMR would also be active in the 19 mb around 15040 kHz! Address is (2) *** **DEVIL AM** made its debut trm September 18th via the Star Club Radio tx. October 30th a relay took place on 6283 via Radio Royal. Address is (1). Devil AM is hoping to get on the air with an own tx *** Also relayed on the 30th via Radio Royal was **STAR CLUB RADIO** Frequency: 6282. By the way: the 2nd part of SCR's birthday was aired October 9th on 6252 kHz. Address is (1) *** A horror radio play was put out by **HALLOWEEN** October 30th. The station was noted on 6295 as well as on 7420 (not in parallel). The Box 452, Wellsville, NY 14895, USA address was announced. This station is not the same as a Radio Halloween of European origin which appeared in 1991/1992 on SW *** **POW-WER MUSIC RADIO** was noted twice on 6208: November 6th and December 4th. Perhaps a first Sun of the month schedule?? **RADIO IRELAND** was heard with a weak

signal on 7460 kHz October 23rd. Address is Box 452, Wellsville, NY 14895 in the USA *** A repeat of the 2nd anniversary of the **NORTHERN AMERICAN PIRATE RELAY SERVICE** was broadcasted via the Radio Mirage tx on 6280. Date: November 11th. Same address as Radio Ireland *** **RADIO MIRAGE** put out a repeat of its 10th anniversary Sun November 6th on 6280. That same day the station was also audible on 7414 and 7409. December 11th saw the station on 6284 and 7409. The 48 mb broadcast was a repeat of the 41 mb one. MarK Jones was hosting a show. Address is (1) *** Some news about **THE VOICE OF GERMANY**: this station has always used the Wuppertal maildrop and has never used any other address. The station was never relayed by SRS and there's no connection whatsoever with the Ytterby address. The only 1994 programme of the station was aired on 6280 April 1st. In this way we hope we have cleared up possible misunderstandings and rectified wrong info which could have been part of previous editions of this magazine!! *** **RADIO DRILAND** is now using Box 1732, D-48578 Gronau in Germany *** Rumours about **RADIO MADISON**: this Swiss station should return on the airwaves. The last trm was heard 6 years ago on X-Mas day... *** **SOUTHERN MUSIC RADIO** from New Zealand was heard on 6258 kHz December 11th. Which station was responsible for this relay??

UNIDS

Who can help with the following Unids:

- ☐ October 22nd 6230 23.11 Soul mx, fair signal-strength on the continent;
- ☐ October 22nd 6240 12.23;
- ☐ October 23rd 6219 10.50. Just mx. Poor signal;
- ☐ October 23rd 6250 10.15 Only a carrier, QRM. Poor signal;
- ☐ October 23rd 6284 07.59. Non-stop mx, a fine signal;
- ☐ October 23rd 6310 09.55 Just music, fair signal;
- ☐ October 30th 6208 14.45 Only heard in Sweden with a poor signal;
- ☐ October 29th/30th 6567 11.13. Very weak signal;
- ☐ November 6th 6219 kHz very weak signal;
- ☐ November 6th 6257 kHz 12.37 Radio Sovereign??;
- ☐ November 13th December 4th 6261 10.05 Music, low signal.

USA

Not much this time. Conditions have been very poor making it very difficult to catch North American stations. One of the stations reaching Europe is **KTVI**. November 13th a very poor signal was noted on 6955 kHz ☐

Joop Ter Zee's ALTERNATIVE (fucking) THOUGHTS

** Yabba Dabba doo & how do ya do ** Welcome to my *special* column ** After some issues without my fucking contribution it was *high time* for me to do something again ** And if ya read such a fucking article in edition 131 from Chris, then ya know it's time to get the good-old WP active ** This Chris dude, isn't he the one who was strongly in love with the *radio boys* himself?? ** Isn't that the same Chris who went on the (fucking) high seas to see & tough the *egos* of Monique? ** Isn't he the guy who writes mostly the same as I did, but 10 years ago in a free radio Mag.?? ** Anyway, the story is out and everybody is free to do as he or she pleases ** That's why this is the *free* radio ** At the time this fucking piece of art is written down, (1/2 Dec.) there are almost

no XMAS songs out over here in Holland ** Don't think the XMAS will ever be the same ** I heard Mrs. Carey (you know, the one your sister likes, Music Box & all that) ** I hate the bitch ** She's only displaying her voice instead of singing ** Then we go deeply into the inner side of me, myself, I ** They are *not* my "emotions" ** It's too simple ** I guess this is the real XMAS spirit ** One more time I'd like to draw some attention to MTV's Most Wanted ** Check it out before it's too late ** Mr. Cokes (with his ever red eyes), Nina & Rob ** It's too big for tv ** Like: They are airing a promo from Peter Gabriel, to save the earth (Oh, holy shit, not again) ** Then *they* on and and Ray says: "All right, if you want to save the earth, don't do it so bloody dull man, we

might as well have a good time.." ** Yes ** Or one of the Scandinavian spots do not (*I repeat DO NOT*) smoke joints a.o.t. ** There's this promo which shows a guy falling off the balcony after a joint and being chased by 4 women ** jeetje ** I wouldn't go for the balcony scene but wifes and joints... ** It's *not* to say to *do* things instead of doing them *not* ** But this is too fucking simple ** Or, at the quizzz ** Check out this anagram: she whipped when bonking ** Sophie B Hawkinds ** Well, a bit like that ** While overhere the Philips kids are still thinking about how to index their spots & jingles on DCC, we're coming to an end of this digitized year ** Take care and till soon, ***** The Zee-man @@@@

73's
And all that stuff

THE COMMUNICATOR: A POTTED HISTORY

Since February of this year FRSGDX has been frequently reporting about the developments regarding the MV Communicator. Soon the ship will begin its 3rd life as a floating radio vessel. There's no denying that since the ship's appearance in European waters- December 1983- there have been a handful of incidents. Broken anchorchains, lost anchors, antenna towers which collapsed, intrigues. It looked like a curse was resting on the ship. Perhaps it had to last 10 years before she's getting into smooth waters (in both senses of the words). FRSGDX compiled the Story of the Communicator.

HOW IT ALL STARTED

February 1983 Englishman John Kenning contacted Paul Rusling. Main subject: setting up a new offshore radio station. They both visited the US and talks took place with several people. By August 1983 John Kenning had pulled out and that same month a ship was purchased in the UK and the ship sailed to Port Everglades, USA where she arrived late September. The project was set up by Rusling & Americans and a few months later- November- the Dutch newspaper 'De Volkskrant' carried a report about rumours about a new pirate ship called the *MV Communicator*. In the report it was mentioned the ship was previously known as the *Gardline Seeker*. She was sold by an Uk-based company called Gardline Shipping Ltd. to an unknown person who was representing an American company having its seats at Madison Avenue in New York. October 1983 the *Gardline Seeker* was converted into a floating radio vessel in Port Everglades, Florida, USA and it was then that the ship was renamed into *Communicator*. In Florida the vessel was refitted, repainted and overhauled.

THE SHIP

Originally the ship was designed for long periods at sea serving as an oceanographic survey ship with powerful generators, a deep mooring system, high capacity fuel and water tanks and quarters for a large crew. Therefore the conversion of the *Communicator* from a research ship into a radio ship was quite easily accomplished. The ship was built in 1955 by Yacht and Bootswerf Abekeing & Rasmussen in a

German town called Lemwerder being ordered by a Norwegian Stavanger-based shipping company. Her original name was '*Tanager*' and she was built to carry cattle. 1973 saw the ship being converted into a survey ship and the new name was '*Charterer*'. Only three years later the ship's name was again renamed into '*Gardline Seeker*'. At the dry dock in Port Everglades, the original laboratory space was converted to studios and professional broadcasting equipment was installed. In addition a state-of-the-art satellite naviga-

tion system (SatNav 802) computing 14 different navigation functions was installed. To quote the organisation behind the *Communicator*:

"The MV Communicator is the most electronically sophisticated private commercial radio ship in the world and the first one of its kind to be outfitted in class. What a fitting home for the first legal alternative to pirate radio!"

The *Communicator* has a weight of 489 tons and had a length of 57 metres x 8.95m x 3.17m draught. The ship is powered by a 600bhp engine.

HEADING FOR EUROPE

December 13th the ship arrived in the harbour of New Ross, Ireland. The ship suffered damage when she crossed the Atlantic. Just before X-Mas the radio ship dropped anchor in the Thames Estuary off Margate, some 2.5 miles removed from the *Caroline* ship *Ross Revenge*. Comment from the *Caroline* crew: "*Our red-painted neighbours have arrived.*"

FIRST TESTS/LASER

January 19th marked the first tests on 729 kHz making use of helium balloons replacing the traditional antenna tower(s). By the way: two balloons went their own way... Further tests were heard in February (only a few) and early March. New



● "Action stations!..."



tests followed in April and May and May 24th at 06.00 CEST the Communicator became officially operational as a radio ship. She was the home of 'All Europe Radio' Laser 558. This time not making use of helium balloons but with a more conventional antenna system. Two 35 metre antenna towers were erected and the first hit emanating from the antenna wires was Quo's 'Rocking all over the world'.

EUROSIEGE '85: THE END

The ship remained on the high seas defying the often stormy Northsea. Early August 1985 the British authorities berthed

vember 6th the Communicator sailed into Harwich harbour, assisted by the Gardline Tracker. Quoting Laser jock Craig Novak (with regard to the Gardline Tracker): "Just like looking in a mirror, without the aerial." The ship was held under arrest in the River Stour off Edwarton Ness (Harwich) and several creditors wanted their money. The future of the radio ship looked darker than ever.

COMMUNICATOR FOR SALE

Late 1985 the English magazine 'Broadcast' carried an advert with the following content: "For sale MV Communicator-

cluding the two CSI 25 kW AM Super modulation txs, 1 combiner change-over unit, a 37 kW dummy load., an aerial tuning unit coil, power supplies, audio processor units etc. All offers had to be made before April 8th. Thursday April 11th RNW's 'Media Network' paid attention to the sale of the Communicator. Jonathan Marks called the Admiralty Marshal but he was informed a decision had to be made yet. One week later Media Network reported the ship was sold to an unnamed English person. Salient detail: according to clause 14 of the Admiralty Marshal's Conditions of Sale the buyer wasn't allowed to use the ship or equipment for illegal broadcasting.

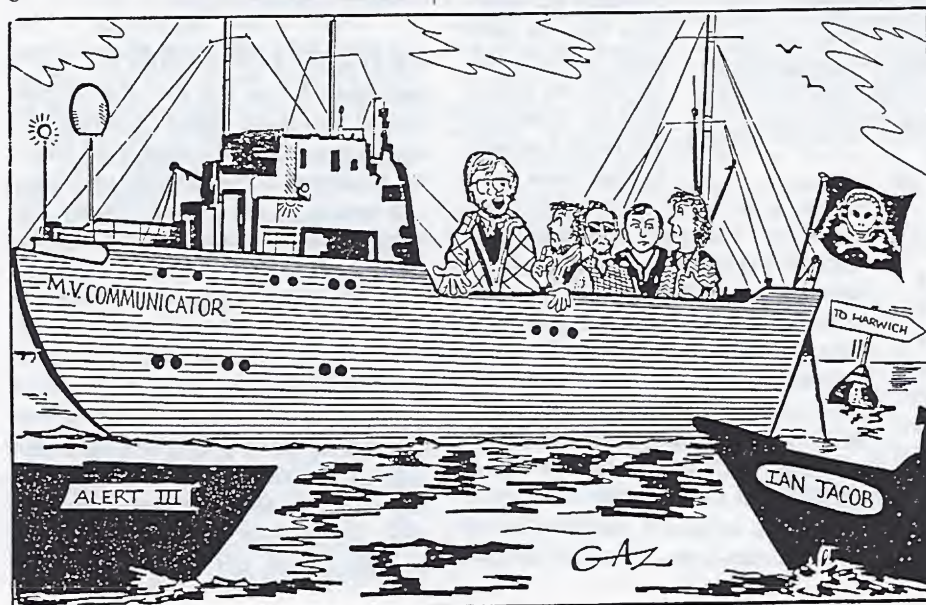
EAP PURCHASES THE SHIP/WORK IS CARRIED OUT

Spring 1986 it became known that East Anglia Productions (of all) had bought the ship paying £ 35,000! Many interested parties appealed to EAP trying to buy or lease the ship. Among these parties radio Monique, an American consortium and a Dutch organisation. In the mean time EAP's Ray Anderson- assisted by other people- worked day and night carrying out repairs and bringing the ship back in a perfect condition. New equipment was installed and studios were rebuilt. The name of Paul May was mentioned as being the person who was trying to get the ship back on the high seas as a broadcasting vessel.

And time after time it was suggested the ship was prepared to sail to the Mediterranean. June saw the unexpected return of the Laser roadshow. An advert in an English paper contained the following text: "Laser is shortly to be back and the Laser Roadshow is back on the road." Work progressed during the 1986 summer: the main tx was overhauled, improved antenna towers, repaired generators and a ship which was repainted. Especially the work on the ship itself was very important because the ship could only leave Harwich following a sea-worthiness check-up (part of the sale conditions) which would be carried out by the Dep. of Transport. In the middle of August EAP received a major offer to use the Communicator as a legitimate operation with an unique format.

SHIP BEING BOARDED

Things looked very promising until late



"I SAID WE SHOULD HAVE GONE TO ULLAPOOL!"

the Dioptric Surveyor in the vicinity of the two radio ships keeping an eye on the supply. 'Eurosiege' was born and this was the beginning of the end of the Communicator's life as a radio vessel. Tuesday November 5th laser left the airwaves at 13.22 CET and no-one could expect those were the very last sounds under the Laser 558 banner emanating from that beautiful red ship.

Wednesday November 6th was a black day for Laser and the Communicator. Heavy gales damaged the electric system aboard the ship. Moreover: no supplies had reached the ship and it was the captain deciding to weigh the anchor heading for an English harbour. The Communicator couldn't sail under her own steam and was -ironically- towed by its sister ship, the Gardline Tracker. The latter replaced the Dioptric Surveyor and was leased by British authorities. In the evening of No-

Laser 558. Available, for sale or lease for legal re-launch by new investors. Serious enquiries to Overseas Media Inc., 7 Kensington High Street, London W8 5NP. "

It was crisp-clear the Admiralty Marshall was seeking to sell the vessel and its contents, in order to pay off the writs already served on the ship to the tune of no less than £ 100,000 !! Scrap value of the ship was an estimated £ 8000. Rumours were circulating the ship would be towed to Ipswich but it appeared this was untrue. Also untrue were the rumours in February 1986 in which was claimed the British authorities were intending to buy the Communicator. Indeed there were potential buyers. In this respect an American, an English and an Dutch-Belgian organisation were mentioned.

March 7th 1986 yet another advert appeared in 'Broadcast'. it concerned an Admiralty Court Sale by order of the Admiralty Marshal. The ship was put up for sale in-



September when British customs boarded the ship removing vital parts of the ship's engine. According to British newspapers the ship was due to leave Harwich harbour to sail to the Mediterranean to serve as a floating radio station for English holiday-makers. 'FRS Goes DX' believed in those days that story was only a cover. The customs officers were acting on behalf of the DTI. The latter organisation was afraid the ship would sail to open seas without having completed necessary safety improvements. Nonsense! They simply were afraid the ship would sail to a new anchorage in the Northsea. Ray Anderson was furious claiming already thousands of pounds had been spent on safety improvements. He added there was no intention whatsoever to leave its anchorage. The vessel was immobilised and EAP was threatening to undertake legal action un-

toms officers had been warned by Mr. Anderson's solicitors if the ship caused damage to any other vessel because of breaking its moorings, the costs should be met by them (=the authorities). Because of removing those vital parts the Communicator couldn't steam under her own power. As the authorities couldn't find any legal reason to justify their action in September, officers returned to the ship with the removed engine parts. The next step was to have the detention order lifted from the vessel and obtaining a certificate issued by a Panamanian official. The latter happened Monday November 10th. Four days later the detention order was lifted. Already a few days earlier full supplies including fuel oil, water, food and spares were taken aboard

BACK ON THE HIGH SEAS

AM dial. Not very surprising knowing work on the aerial system had to be completed. Via a press release it finally became clear, the Communicator was ready for a new start under the official name *Laser Hot Hits 576*.

TESTS ON 576

Monday evening December 1st 1986 at approx. 20.30 the first Laser blasts were heard on 576 AM. The start of a very exciting test period. Remember that excellent '*Laser is back, go tell a friend*' promo with the darkbrown voice of Bill Mitchell, the extremely fast way in which John 'Rock & Roll' Anthony presented the first tests etc. Sunday December 7th saw the official return of Laser on the AM dial on 576 kHz. The Communicator had started its second life.



less the vital parts wouldn't be returned within 7 days. A little accident made the authorities aware of the danger of their action. October 20th choppy seas and gale force winds forced the Communicator to drag its anchor after it broke away from its moorings. By the end the ship was hitting the sealink 'Cambridge Ferry'. Luckily only little damage was caused to the UK-Belgian ferry. A few weeks earlier Cus-

Early Sunday morning November 16th at 03.00 UK time the Communicator left Harwich heading for International waters. Ray Anderson declared the ship would sail to Gibraltar to meet its new owners. But that didn't happen.... The ship dropped anchor 15 miles off Harwich, near Sealand. The Communicator was back where she belonged: on the high seas! The next few days nothing was heard on the

END OF LASER HOT HITS

This time the Northsea adventure was a very brief one: less than 5 months after the official start- Easter Monday April 20th 1987- the tx on the Communicator went silent, low on fuel. Laser was in the middle of a cash-flow crisis. The Communicator remained at her anchorage and in offshore circles there was some hope a new financial injection would bring about



a return of radio broadcasts.

NEW ANCHORAGE/RUMOURS

June 1987 the Communicator was towed to a new anchorage 18 miles north west of Dunkirk. This was the beginning of a rather turbulent period full of rumours, hope and new moorings. The rumours: New backers were found financing two new stations commencing pxs on board the Communicator. A two million dollar cash injection would keep the Communicator afloat enabling WEZE (pronounced as Weasy) to take to the air together with a second new station, the popular and professional London-based oldies station Radio Sovereign owned by John Kenning. Also Chrispian St. John was involved. For the very first time the name of Fred Bolland (already involved with Radio Monique) turned up. In the mean time it became also clear why the ship was towed to a new mooring. Dunkirk was the home-port of the large Monique tender, also tendering the Communicator since the return on the high seas back in November 1986. The suppliers wanted their money and thus decided to tow the ship to a position very close to their home-port. The crew on the Communicator consisted of former laser Hot Hits deejay Paul Jackson and a few engineers. Not that much happened and the most important thing didn't become reality: the construction of a brandnew and much stronger aerial system. Plan was to use a Veronica type of aerial, a so-called T-aerial hanging between two antenna towers.

BACK TO ENGLISH COAST

August 15th the Communicator was towed to yet another new position some 15 miles off Harwich, at the south point of the Inner Gabber Sandbank

just inside the 12 mile limit. Only three men were on the ship. New stories about American backers were surfacing and even the frequencies were already mentioned: 531 & 576 kHz. Before the end of August - August 27th- the ship sailed to a new mooring 9 miles southward, some 26 miles south east east off Frinton-on-Sea, this time just *outside* the 12 mile territorial limit, in between Galloper and North falls Sandbanks. Sun August 30th a 3rd move within three weeks took place and the Communicator sailed to an anchorage half a mile from the Ross Revenge.

NEW RADIO STATIONS?

Two new names of radio stations popped up: Star Force 576 and Harmony 981. October 15th the Communicator lost her anchor ending up on a position closer to the English coastline. Following this incident the ship sailed back to a position

15 miles off Harwich. One thing was obvious: Dutchman Fred Bolland was heavily involved. October was also the month Johnny Lewis was on the ship testing the main tx on the dummy load while hosting a show. The *Radio Sunk* (called after the position of the ship) signal was so strong that despite the use of a dummy load, it was received along the coastline. October 22nd the ship's antenna system was dismantled and work could start on the new masts, lying on the deck and each consisting of three sections. Rumours were stronger than ever that quite soon Star Force 576 would take to the airwaves. Former Laser Hot Hits jock Paul Jackson would be the station controller. Harmony 981 would be starting a few weeks later. But by the end of 1987 still nothing had happened and January 1988 it became clear the Communicator had been boarded. Things were rather confusing since

there were three conflicting parties involved. A large amount of money was missing and the three parties had talks with each other in a final attempt to solve the internal problems and disagreements. Following the boarding incident the ship sailed to an anchorage in the galloper area off the Suffolk coast.

BACK TO HARWICH

Early February the Communicator lost another anchor and the ship was forced to steam about the Northsea. There was not much fuel oil left, oil which was badly needed to keep the engines running. Moreover there was a problem with the engine and the captain decided he couldn't take any risk. And so the Communicator's 'Northsea wandering' came to an abrupt end. During the early hours of Wednesday February 3rd- some 14 months after the



The Communicator in Lisbon harbour August 1990. Photo: Stuart Dobson.



sensational start of Laser Hot Hits- the ship sailed into Harwich harbour. Only three men were aboard: Paul Jackson, an engineer and the captain.

Friday February 5th the Communicator moved from Parkstone Quay to Edwarton where she only stayed for less than a day. Studio equipment was removed and the ship was moved to a scrapyard at Mistley near Manningtree, on the River Stour. Sun February 7th nothing of the on-air and studio equipment was left on the ship. Mike Barrington was hired to look after the ship.

SHIP ADVERTISED/ COMMUNICATOR BACK TO SEA

March 1st the English magazine NOW Radio carried an advert:

"Offers are hereby invited from serious parties for the motor vessel Communicator. This vessel may be sold complete with arrange of equipment, including two 25 kW CSI txs."

Insiders predicted the ship would be scrapped but things took an unexpected turn Sat April 8th when the Communicator left her moorings. Sun April 9th was lying in the River Stour, very close to her position in 1985/1986. At approx. 18.30 CEST a tug towed the Communicator seaward. The ship was allowed to leave Harwich (seaworthiness certificate) and was towed to a position some 30 miles south east of the Ross Revenge off the Belgian/French coast, not too far away from Nieuwpoort and Dunkirk. A new wiring was installed and the ship was supplied. Several people were carrying out work on the ship, among them Fred Bolland and former Veronica engineer José van Groningen. Bolland was trying to purchase a 30 kW FM tx, belonging to former Nova boss Chris Cary who on his turn bought the tx from Ben Bode who was the key-figure behind Radio Paradise. Indeed that tx had once been standing on the Magda Maria ship, the home of Radio Paradise.

PORTUGAL/DISAGREEMENT

Mid July the Communicator left its anchorage heading for Lisbon, Portugal. No real developments took place. That changed in October when Portuguese authorities brought an unexpected visit to the ship

confiscating some of the equipment. November/December certain reports suggested the ship had been heading for Morocco. This appeared to be false information. January 1990 the Dutch national daily 'Het Algemeen Dagblad' carried an interesting article about the Communicator. Quoting some extracts: *"While the radio vessel Communicator is tied up in a Portuguese harbour, those who are involved in the project are at each other's throats. The Panamanian company White Lanca Marine Enterprises accuses Fred Bolland of having failed. It demands the immediate return of the original bill of sale of the Communicator by the British Admiralty to Cord Cabo Int. Inc., immediate return of the original Definite Certificate of Registry from Honduras and last but not least the immediate return of the ship's papers. If all requested documents are not duly and entirely delivered by hand or registered mail, then legal actions will be commenced against Fred Bolland, quite separate of a penalty fee of US\$10,000 on a daily basis becoming payable until such a date as documents will be received. Bolland is also requested to return all funds entrusted in his care which have as yet not been covered by authorised, justified and accepted expenditure. Further more Bolland must justify expenditures worth £ 155,000. In case he's not able to justify the aforementioned expenditures, he is requested to return this amount of money as well. According to Fred Bolland, White Lanca Marine enterprises acts on behalf of the Underground Church having offices in the Netherlands and Germany. He refuses every responsibility. He claims that Waipuna- the company who engaged the crew working on the Communicator- is still waiting to receive an amount of money to pay the salaries of the crew and the port dues. The ship's papers are in the hands of Waipuna and used as a pledge. Waipuna seems to be a daughter of Cord Cable, the former owner of the Communicator. White Lanca won't receive the ship papers until all debts have been paid. "It's an annoying story but we'll come to an agreement" Bolland added.*

A rather confusing story revealing some info which was previously unknown to a lot of people. What had happened? April

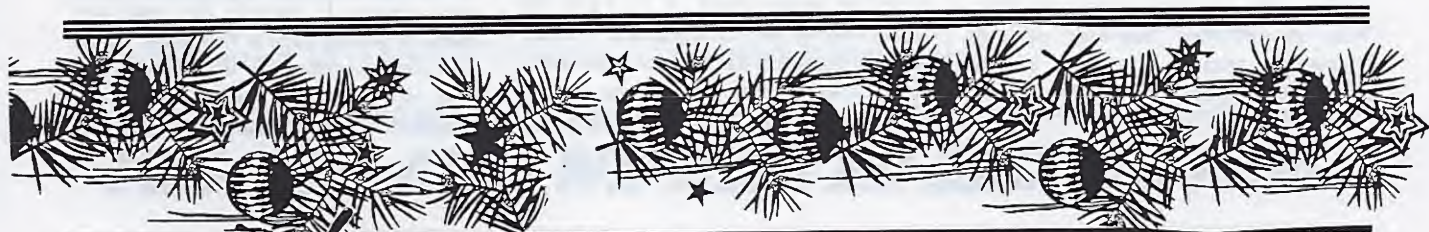
9th 1989 the Communicator left Harwich and three days later White Lanca bought the ship from Cord Cable. The latter company came into White Lanca's possession. White Lanca planned a religious SW service on the Communicator. Fred Bolland became captain and was responsible for the daily routine. A company called Waipuna (could it be Bolland's own company??) recruited a crew. White Lanca paid Bolland large amounts of money to buy equipment, pay salaries etc. The problem could be that a few go-betweens had to channel the money via White Lanca to Bolland. They didn't channel the full amount but accused Bolland of putting it in his own pocket. Fact is that Bolland was fired early December 1989.

A long period followed in which no developments are taking place. One antenna tower was lying on the quay while a few sections of the second red-painted mast had been installed on the ship.

NEW BUYERS?

In the Summer of 1992 it was rumoured an American consortium was interested to buy the Communicator aiming to use the ship as a broadcasting vessel in an area around the West Indian Isles. They are willing to pay \$ 220,000 for the ship including all equipment. In the end nothing happened and almost one year later, June 1993, Ben Bode (heavily involved in the prestigious Paradise project) reported that there was renewed interest to purchase the vessel. The names of Ray Anderson and Chr.St.John (alias Jay Jackson /Howard Rose) and Radio One (Israeli offshore station) were mentioned. But also in this case it only remained rumours. Early 1994 Dutch newspaper published stories about Holland FM willing to purchase the Communicator. Already soon it appeared these stories were- for a change- not the usual rumours. The event between February and now were reported in detail in the FRSGDX editions 127-130 □

This story was compiled by Peter Verbruggen. Sources: Hans Knot & FRS Goes DX.



MADE in HOLLAND

By Chris Latiers

SATURDAY NOVEMBER 12th one of our informants paid a visit to the Communicator. Contrary to some comments in a Dutch media magazine regarding the free waves, he got the impression the ship has been well established. Nico Volker has been showing him around the ship. All parts are visited. He got a good impression of the condition of the radio ship. Although it is a fact stories told by Nico Volker have to be taken with a pinch of salt we will reproduce some of the "facts" revealed by him. April 1995 Holland's most popular deejay Jeroen van Inkel will leave Radio 3 to join Hit Radio Holland FM. He will be the first current Veronica-jock leaving public radio and going commercial. As already reported Veronica will start its official commercial life September 1st 1995. Hit Radio Holland FM will transform into Veronica AM. Jeroen will be presenting the breakfast show on Hit Radio Holland FM. Some weeks later he will be joined by Rob Stenders.

From April 1st onwards the MV Communicator will be open for visitors. They will be able to attend the "offshore museum". This exhibition will be held in some of the ship's cabins. Five of these cabins are needed for the crew.

In the meantime authorities are closely watching Hit Radio Holland FM because of its recent change of format. Holland FM got AM frequencies because of the fair share of Dutch productions the stations would be playing. The new format certainly doesn't fit into this condition anymore during the daytime. However, during nighttime hours only Dutch music is be played. So, all in all the station will come up to the needed amount of 50% Dutch music. Radio Noordzee Nationaal is following the same policy. The authorities haven't taken measures against this station. It's a well-known fact the -former-Dutch government has been favouring this station. Because RNN has been left alone it will be likely also Holland FM will not be troubled.

FRIDAY NOVEMBER 25th the negotiations with the Radio 10 group have been broken off. Veronica and its partner the Endemol organization decided the price asked by R.10 was far too high. Veronica is investigating other possibilities to get terrestrial frequencies. In case these attempts won't be successful the station will be choosing for cable radio only. Negotiations about AM Nieuws are continuing in

like the signal is directed to the North Eastern part of Holland. However, on **FRI-DAY DECEMBER 2nd** suddenly a very strong signal was to be heard on 1224. It seemed like the transmitters on board the ship were using full power for the first time. This lasted until next morning, when the signal dropped back to its former level.

Some presenters on Holland FM make clear during the weekend of **December 3rd and 4th** that programming of the station will change again from January 1st onwards. Some deejays will have to leave the station. One of the deejays even stated Veronica will take over the station from that date. This remark isn't true: Veronica isn't allowed to exploit commercial broadcasts until the station has left the public system, next Autumn.

Almost everyday new developments happen in the world of Dutch media at this moment. **Monday December 5th** Veronica announces it has gained a share of 33% in the news station AM-Nieuws. This station will start broadcasting September 1st 1995. It will transmit seven days a week, 24 hours a day on 1395 kHz. However, this frequency isn't very suitable: it won't cover the whole country and besides that, there will be severe interference from Radio Tirana during nighttime. Possible solutions are investigated at this moment.

One possibility can be the fact Radio 1 has to leave one of its frequencies next year. Radio is broadcasting on both AM (747 kHz) and FM. One of these frequencies will become available for commercial radio. Probably this will be the FM network. Most politicians want to "save" the medium wave frequency for Radio 1 to serve truckdrivers and other Dutchmen abroad. The FM network will guarantee nationwide coverage. Even the possibility of dividing the network into some different "packages".

However, more stations are eager to take over the Radio 1 frequency. Sky Radio and Radio 538 have expressed their intention to get a terrestrial frequency by second chance. In January this year they failed in getting such a frequency. In the meantime advisors to the Government have come to the conclusion the assignment in January has been in contra-



Veronica is planning to run five radio stations. In order to get access to the airwaves the station is undertaking attempts to take over commercial radio stations with terrestrial frequencies. The first station to be purchased was Holland FM ofcourse. **WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 23th** it was revealed the Radio 10 organization asks 46 million Guilders for its three stations: Radio 10 Gold, Love Radio and Concert Radio (classical music). The latter two stations only are broadcasting via cable. With the planned take-over of AM Nieuws the number of stations will be reaching the intended five indeed.

the meantime.

Radio 538 and Sky Radio are continuing their fight for access to the air. They hope to benefit from the fact there's a new Dutch parliament and government in the meantime, compared with January, when the frequencies were assigned. There is a lot of disagreement among Members of Parliament about the way the frequencies were allocated.

Since the transmissions on 1224 kHz are taken over by the Communicator October 21st the signal on this frequency has deteriorated a lot. In most parts of the country 828 is far more better to receive. It seems



diction to the law. Especially Sky Radio has always been underlining this fact, and now the station has strong hopes it will get a terrestrial frequency after all as a kind of compensation.

TUESDAY DECEMBER 13th we were informed that at that very moment the contract between Holland FM and Enedemol hadn't been signed yet. Both parties have expressed their intention to bring

Holland FM into the Enedemol holding, but still there's no real contract at all. Veronica has stated it only wants to use the Communicator as an outlet for its programmes if the output of the transmitters will be 60 kW or more. At this moment a power of 23 kW is radiated. Plans are to increase power to 40 kW in the near future.

One of the former Holland FM deejays,

Eddy Becker, is back on the radio: he is presenting the morning programme on the Gouwe Ouwe Zender. He is replacing Peter Teekamp (Carl de Jong), who has left the station. Quite remarkable the programme director is leaving his station already after a few months. It is said he is investigating possibilities for his employer, Sky Radio, abroad. Especially in Poland Sky hopes to find new chances for the station.

Jungle Rock: The Story Continues.....

HERBIE'S MEMOIRS

In the last episode of this drama, you could read about the events that led to the construction of what had to become a new national commercial Dutch radiostation, broadcasting on both AM and on FM cable, in combination with the legendary offshore radiostation Radio Caroline. After organising 2 million cable-connections (that couldn't be used because of lack of a broadcast license, as the Dutch law stipulated that you had to cover at least 60% of all Dutch households when you start broadcasting via cable: now this has been reduced to 30%) and finding a fund to finance the project, things could be organised. This weird group of "financers" including a formerly well known and (apparently formerly) very rich German art-dealer called Werner Linssen (who now happens to live in Switzerland), an American record-producer called Eddie Singleton, who once used to be one of the top-producers of the well known record company Motown and who nowadays sometimes lives in L.A. and in Switzerland, and a number

of other weird background-people, held meetings with us in both Switzerland and in the Netherlands. This group claimed that they were developing a range of environmental-products and needed an advertising outlet in western Europe for these products, to make them familiar with a large audience. Therefore, this group saw the radiostation as the perfect way to promote these new, alternative products, in particular because Jungle Rock was supposed to promote "environmental awareness" as well. They showed us bankguarantees for 1 BILLION US DOLLARS and upon checking these bankguarantees it all seemed to be legitimate. However, just before we had to prove to the Dutch government that Jungle Rock would be financially secure, in order to be secure, I contacted Eddie Singleton and Werner Linssen, and was told that they were "still working on the project". Which basically meant that these bankguarantees had been falsified via an ingenious way, and that they used these false bankguarantees mainly to try to generate real money from honest investors,

but Eddie and Werner didn't appear to be succeeding in this. So, there we were: Jungle Rock right in front of what could become a very solid radiostation but without a penny. All investments so far had come out of my own pocket!!! Also Radio Caroline didn't invest a penny in the project, but then, Caroline didn't have to. I was only going to use Caroline because of its satellite-broadcast license and the deal was that in return Jungle Rock would hire a 2nd satellite-subcarrier on which Caroline could broadcast its own programmes 24 hours a day. With only a few days left, I started looking for a new investment-group, and succeeded in this !! After all, I only had to prove that I'd have 3.8 million US dollars the moment I would get the AM 675 kHz frequency. And this frequency was valued on at least 10 mln US, so financing wasn't the biggest problem on Jungle Rock's path □

(this story will be continues!)

FRS-HOLLAND: WE WILL BE BACK IN 1995

FRS SATELLITE TALK

WRN

WRN will start two new radio channels early next year. The awaited *German* service is scheduled to begin in early to mid 1995, whilst the much-awaited NPR feed from the USA is due in the first couple of months of 1995 freeing up space on the English service (currently most of WRN's air time is hired by NPR!).

Recently WRN celebrated their first anniversary. Network One broadcasts in English via two satellites: Eutelsat II-F1 on the 7.74 audio subcarrier of MBC (11.554 Ghz/V) and on Astra's 11.538 Ghz/V MTV transponder subcarrier 7.38 Mhz. A new service- also on MTV's TV transponder- is planned on 7.74 Mhz. Network One can also be received on a number of terrestrial transmitters in the USA. In Europe some major cities carry the WRN programmes via cable networks as well. More news: WRN has failed in its bid to get a FM license in London. The results of the fierce bidding war for 6 available licenses was announced Fri Oct. 7th. Virgin managed to obtain a FM licence in London (see also News from around...).

NBC

Since October 1st NBC Super Channel- the commercial pan European TV satellite station- has revamped its TeleText Service. That means that on page 171 updated satellite news is provided for satellite enthusiasts. NBC's satellite news used to be on page 271. Soon *technology news* will be added. The news is refreshed each week on Mondays.

ERF

German language evangelical radio service ERF will begin broadcasting via QVC on Astra from December onwards. The station previously leased time on failed country music radio station Country Music Radio. The subcarrier is understood to be 7.38 (on the 11.038 Ghz/V TV transponder).

SKY RADIO

Already for some time Sky Radio is seriously considering the idea of starting up a second soft pop service on cable in Ger-

many. Already some time ago it was decided the station will first look at the possibilities which are rather promising looking at the enormous potential audience in Germany. Up till now no decision has been taken but we expect something will happen early next year. The new soft pop service will use the same format as its Dutch counterpart. Only: some adjustments will be included in connection with the profile of the German market.

Latest news: Sky Radio *failed* to take over a German station broadcasting terrestrially. As a result Radio 538 won't leave its Astra subcarrier for the time being. The new Sky Radio station would take over Radio 538's 7.74/7.93 subcarriers via Sky One's 11.318 Ghz/V TV transponder. Radio 538 will leave Astra and will go digital just like Radio 10 Gold did last year. Then the 538 signal cannot be received anymore on the normal consumer's satellite receiving equipment. Only cable networks can receive and distribute the digital signal.



WDR

Since October 1st WDR, the national German broadcasting service, have extended their satellite radio offer. WDR 2 was already on the 7.38/7.56 Mhz subcarriers via the Astra TV transponder of West 3 on 11.053 Ghz/H. Since a few weeks WDR 1FM (Hit Radio) is to be heard on the 7.74/7.92 subcarriers. In future WDR plans all of its radioservices via the West 3 TV transponder by means of ADR (Astra Digital Radio). More about ADR in one of the upcoming editions of FRS GDX. The Bayrische Rundfunk has already been carrying out ADR tests on Astra transponder 45.

UK STATIONS GO ADR

Four London commercial radio stations- Kiss FM, Jazz FM, Melody Radio & Capital Gold- are showing interest to get a spot on the Astra. All stations aim to broadcast digitally via the new developed ADR system.

RADIOROPA

Late September German commercial satellite broadcaster Radioropa aired the final edition of the popular *DX Report*. The programme was aired each Sunday between 22.00-23.00 CET. There's no reason for radio enthusiasts to be too sad: Friday October 7th saw the birth of a brandnew radio magazine on Radioropa called *DX-Treff*. This show is aired each Friday between 23.00-00.00 CET. The difference with DX-Report is that the full contents of DX-Treff is produced by the listeners. The programme consists of a number of fixed columns and for each column one or more persons are responsible. Listeners can contribute by sending and/or telephoning the news to these responsible persons. The programme is however presented by a Radioropa employee. In the programme attention is being paid to the DX Hobby, satellite radio/TV, the German FM scene, medium wave and also SW free radio (logs). Interesting are the special features each Friday. For instance on the 21st of October there was a special report about the medium wave and the loop aerial. Radioropa broadcasts on audio subcarriers 7.74/7.92 Mhz on the TV transponder of Pro 7 at 11.406 Ghz/V.

RADIO MARIA INT.

When reading this name, you might think it is a religious station. Yes, you are right. At the end of this year the station will become active 24 hours a day by satellite. The project is set up by the *Int. Christliche Rundfunkgemeinschaft* having its seats in Ingolstadt, Germany. As yet it's not clear via which satellite and transponder this *heavenly* station will become active ☐

Send your taped or written message for the 1994 X-Mas broadcast as soon as possible to our Herten maildrop!!

MAILBOX 2727

It's about time to compile a fresh, updated edition of 'Mailbox 2727'. Because FRS-Holland was silent between April and October, there was no reason to produce this column. Things now look different after receiving the many letters in connection with our October 16th 1994 programming celebrating 14 years of FRS-Holland.

Klaus Kohler from **Oberloquitz/ Germany** writes: "after reading about your Birthday broadcast I was anxiously awaiting your October 16th pxs. I was very much surprised about the power on 7420 KHz. It sounded like it was a signal of a local station, it was almost perfect!"

Thanks Klaus, your remark proves that our 7420 was really doing well. Unfortunately some listeners received only a weak signal on 7420. It's obvious that their reception was affected by long skip.

"The signal was very good, I liked the programmes. The 7420 outlet was weak." Thank you **Frank Neuss** from **Dortmund/Germany**.

Johann Puff lives in **Muhlheim/ Germany** and is already a regular FRS-H listener since a few years. "Congratulations on your 14th birthday. I have the great pleasure in sending you a reception report. I hope to receive a special qsl." Well dear Johann, we are convinced you'll like the full colour nostalgic qsl-card showing the old 10W txs.

From England we received a letter from **Patrick Travers** living with his wife and two children in **Sheffield**. "Thanks for the great programme yesterday, I enclose a reception report. I can't wait for the next issue of of the magazine. Do you intend doing a special in December? I also hope to hear FRS-Holland on a late night service on the 76 mb." December 18th and/or 25th we'll be on air. As far as the 76 mb is concerned: we do have the possibility of transmitting on 3.9 MHz. The only problem is we don't have that much space to erect the aerial, perhaps we'll try and test a quarter wave dipole. We are convinced we could put out a strongish 76 mb signal!

"Indeed same as it ever was: a wonderful and VERY professional programme. Thanks and congratulations. I couldn't hear FRS-H for a very long time and I missed it. I enjoyed the shows of Joop ter Zee and Tony Mitchell." What can we

say....thank you very much **J.F. Hofstadt** from **Germany** for these very nice words.

Anne Schawacht from **Offenbach/Germany** sent us a very nice Birthday card. "Congratulations, that was a mega jubilee broadcast. Unfortunately I couldn't hear the whole show. I'm a free radio listener since October 1993 and your 13th birthday tm was one of the very first free radio pxs I heard. In the mean time I have collected quite a number of qsl-cards."

A letter from France. **Mr. S.Mezenecv** living in **Paris** wrote: "it's been a great pleasure to receive for the first time your station, FRS-H, here in Paris. Ten years ago, I used to listen to pirates like Radio Julie, Radio Krypton, EMR, Enoch Radio, Empire Radio and many others. I remember the famous UK 'Kent Place' address very well." It's good to know you have retuned to the SW free radio stations. I guess that it was even more than 10 years ago that you heard the aforementioned stations. Must be some 12 to 15 years ago... Time flies.

"Happy Birthday to you, FRS-Holland. From year to year the solar activity is going down, the reception of a lot of pirates is nowadays impossible during daylight at my qth in Klaipeda, Lithuania but you managed to reach me. Well done. I liked your musical style." Thanks our signal travelled all the way to Klaipeda **Robert Petratis**.

A long letter came from **Achim Bruckner** who lives in **Detmold/Germany**. "Sorry for the delay. The reception quality on 41 metres was varying a lot. 6284 was stable with almost no interference making listening worth while. The flashbacks are ok for a birthday show and I liked the old recordings, in particular those from former FRS jocks. Nevertheless I hope programmes will be back to normal with jokes, music and reports about the media scene. I have taped the competition but it was too difficult for me. I very much appreciate to hear a professional-like programme which is rarely to be heard on the pirate bands nowadays."

First of all many thanks for the very long letter Achim! Believe it or not: we too would like to have more broadcasts. All in all 1994 wasn't that bad: we had four trms in a row in the period January-April 1994 although things didn't weren't 100% because of modulation problems. The problem is that we are depending on a good,

reliable transmitting site. For instance in Belgium... Any tips? About the October tm: we indeed put out 'FRS Goes DX' a couple of times on 6284!

"Dear FRS-Holland, I am at this moment listening to your 14th birthday show. Your signal is very good indeed. This is the first time I have heard you this year. I like your shows very much indeed." Nice to have received your letter **Mr. S.Overall** in **London/UK**.

From quite a number of listeners we got tape reports. One of them was **Jack Milner** from **Halifax/UK**. "I remember 1981 when I was listening to FRS-H on 6250. Now this DXer is 64 years old and I manage to listen to SW free radio every Sunday morning. I use a 'Trio R-600 fed by an outdoor 25 metres long wire.' It's something very special to receive a letter from somebody of that age. Just great. It proves that also older people enjoy our shows.

"Best wishes to all of you and many thanks for 14 years of being on the free radio airwaves! It's always a pleasure to tune to your frequency because pxs produced by the FRS-H team are belonging to the best you can listen to on the free radio bands. FRS-H, the Quality One-it's simply true!" **Gernot Kramer** from **Friedberg/ Germany**....we love such flattering letters.

Robert Magniez from **Calais/France**: "I would like to thank you very uch for all the things you have done in the past 14 years for free radio and freedom of speech. I heard your pxs all day long on 6284. Reception was very good and the pxs were brilliant. It was a real pleasure to listen to the music, info and old extracts." We are glad we made your day Robert. Stay tuned!

The cassette '**Laser, you've never heard it before**' contains everything you missed about Laser. The Laser 730 jingles which were never used, the demos of jingle companies which were chosen, production music and music beds etc. This C-90 costs f 10,-/ DM 10.00/ £ 4.00. Also available '**A Day in the Life of the BBC**'. This video lasts 70 minutes and gives an impression of the late 1950s and how the 'Beeb' was run at that time. An unique video costing f 30,-/DM 30.00/ £ 11.50. **Hans Knot**, Box 102, 9700 AC **Groningen** in the Netherlands.

RADIO IN THE CZECH REPUBLIC

KISS 98 FM

Some years ago it was impossible to think of a real 24 hour pop music station in countries behind the Iron Curtain. But things have dramatically changed following the collapse of communism in 1989. How did an Irish FM radio station launch one of the most successful new private radio stations in Eastern Europe? Through market research and an emphasis on fun, both of which are still radio novelties in this region.

Classic Hits 98 FM came to Eastern Europe from Dublin looking for investment opportunities two years ago when it was unable to obtain a second broadcasting license in Ireland. In 1992, along with Czech partners, it obtained a license to start KISS 98 FM and was the last of 18 stations to go on the air in Prague during a rush of private license awards following the collapse of communism in 1989.

Everybody thought the station was too late and there was no reason to come in as the last people. But they did their research and learned people wanted much more fun, music and contests on the radio. The research proved on target. Since going on air, the 1 kW station has gained 124,000 listeners or, according to Promotional manager Elaine Quinn, about 17% of the metropolitan Prague audience it serves. With a format of back-to-back, on-air con-

tests, plus selector formatted pop music programming, it consistently ranks as one of the top 3 winners in the city's fierce radio competition for (more) listeners. "We try to reward our listeners all the time," Quinn said. "We have far more competitions and prizes than any other station in Prague." KISS researches every aspect of its programming to find a fit between high-powered, Western commercial radio techniques and its Eastern European audience that is still emerging from 40 years of communist state radio. The research began as early as finding a name for the station. "We tested calling it 'Classic Hits' as in Dublin but our respondents said that they thought it meant we would be playing Mozart...", Quinn said. KISS which has no meaning in Czech, has a fast, pronounceable Western image and sound. Quinn: "we've continued to research everything from music playlists to what prizes people want to win in our contest". The station uses its own tele-research staff three nights a week to judge listener response to competitions, deejays and music. Because reliable media research services are still often unavailable in Eastern European markets, KISS must do almost all of its research itself. To date the most popular contests on the station have proved to be those already being successful in main-

stream Western European and American markets, with some exceptions. The station's longest-running, now hallmark, contest is its cash calls to private homes with jackpots averaging US\$ 170. Also highly popular are hide-and-seek competitions with clues to a car or motorcycle hidden somewhere in the city. The station's target audience- primarily 25 to 35 year olds with a secondary range of 20 to 45 year olds- is surprisingly responsive, too, to competitions built around public stunts, which today are less attention-getting in the West. "Every week we challenge our audience to do something mad, and we get a high response," Quinn said. For example, 98 people will climb into a fountain at once." All the contests and stunts at KISS have caught the attention of advertisers as well as listeners. As KISS has maximized its investment in such audience- and advertiser-appealing outreach activities, the station has saved on its technical budget by utilizing basic equipment for all operations. "We use all analog, standard Western equipment," said engineer Pavel Polak. Only our ad production is digital." He noted that the standard range of equipment delivers all the quality the station needs for its signature sound, which mixes high-energy DJ call outs with mainstream to heavy rock.

FROM ALL OF US.....



*Prettige Kerstdagen
en Gelukkig Nieuwjaar*

*Frohe Weihnachten
und ein glückliches
neues Jahr*

*Toi jeix Noël
et Bonne Année*

*Merry Christmas
and a Happy New Year*

*Buon Natale
e Felice Anno Nuovo*

*God Jul
och Gott Nytt År*

*Feliz Navidad
Y Próspero Año Nuevo*